

MAST @ FIU

Biscayne Bay Campus

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT FOR AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Overview

Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes the importance of ensuring that students continue to strengthen reading skills and develop a passion for reading beyond instructional requirements. Experience and current research support the idea that students who are actively engaged in reading throughout the summer demonstrate improved academic performance during the following school year. Cultivating pleasurable reading helps build reading skills and enriches students' knowledge base. In addition, increased independent summer reading of both literary and non-fiction text helps prepare students to be successful in meeting a more rigorous academic standards as schools transition to Language Arts Florida Standards.

Summer reading provides students with an opportunity for recreational reading, personal exploration, and continued intellectual growth. It serves as an essential component of the instructional process in schools. As stated above, research has shown that students who engage in reading throughout the summer improve academically during the following school year. However, school summer reading plans are not intended to be excessive or curtail students' participation in recreational and/or family activities.

Required Reading

The Importance of Being Earnest by: Oscar Wilde
ISBN: 978-0486264783

Their Eyes Were Watching God by: Zora Neale Hurston
ISBN: 978-0061470370

Assignment

Often in literature a character's success in achieving goals depends on keeping a secret and divulging it only at the right moment, if at all.

Using *The Importance of Being Earnest*, extrapolate on a character who has to keep a secret. In a well organized essay, briefly explain the necessity for secrecy and how the character's choice to reveal or keep the secret affects the plot and contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

This essay should be 4-5 paragraphs. Use at least 3 citations from the play. Do not do any research. When you are writing an AP essay you will not have the book in front of you and you will not have any resources.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

"A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don't know how to live properly." —Zadie Smith

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

You will be quizzed on this book when you return.

Both books will be thoroughly discussed.