

CAP 9 Summer Reading for Mr. Rada's English Classes!

Please bring a printed copy of your summer reading with you to our first class together!

Focus: The point of this summer reading collection is to get our rising freshman thinking about what it means to be American. What are our collective values? Where do they come from? Who benefits and who is harmed because of them? How have they changed and how have they stayed the same over the years? These essential questions, and more like them, will be the focus of our first unit of study!

Literature: All students will read the same novel!

- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Movies: Choose 1 of the following movies to watch!

All options are rated PG-13 or below.

- *The Breakfast Club* (1985) dir. John Hughes
 - Hulu, Disney+
- *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) dir. Gabriele Muccino
 - Netflix
- *Minari* (2020) dir. Lee Isaac Chung
 - Hulu, Amazon Prime Video
- *Stand and Deliver* (1988) dir. Ramón Menéndez
 - Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV

Poetry: Read any 5 of the poems listed below!

<u>"Are you the good kind of Muslim?" by Samira Ahmed</u>	<u>"Caribe in Nueva York" by Nathalie Handal</u>
<u>"Theme for English B" by Langston Hughes</u>	<u>"The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus</u>
<u>"I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman</u>	<u>"The Ten Million Flames of Los Angeles" by Amy Uyematsu</u>
<u>"Place Matters" by Clint Smith</u>	<u>"For the White Poets Who Would Be Indian" by Wendy Rose</u>
<u>"How to Write the Great American Indian Novel" by Sherman Alexie</u>	<u>"In Response to Executive Order 9066" by Dwight Okita</u>

Assignment: After reading/viewing the assigned materials, please answer 3 of these 5 Focus Questions that will help prepare you for the first few weeks of our course and the activities we will work together on! You can answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper or on a google doc!

- **Focus Question 1:** The central text for our summer reading, *Into the Wild*, focuses quite heavily on the idea of "individualism," to what extent do your other media selections focus on this idea? Choose one of the movies and one of the poems you selected and compare the main character(s)/speaker to Chris McCandless. How important is individualism to the character/speaker? In what ways do they express their individualism? In your opinion, do these 3 representations of individualism accurately reflect how people generally view individualism in America?
- **Focus Question 2:** Throughout our time together this year, we will be viewing a variety of media to help us answer essential questions. To get you used to that process, I want you to start thinking about the cinematography of the

movies you chose to watch. Pick any one scene from the movie you watched and talk to me about how the director uses things like camera angles, lighting, music, set design, and/or symbolism to help the audience understand the mood/tone of the scene or the characters and their motivations in said scene.

- **Focus Question 3:** I'm a big fan of offering creative alternatives to traditional, analytical writing assignments. So, in that spirit, choose one of the 5 poems that you read and write a journal entry from the perspective of Chris McCandless and explain to me, using a 1st person perspective, how Chris would feel about that poem. Write the journal entry as if he read it in isolation on Bus 142 and wanted to express his thoughts about it. Would he agree or disagree with what the speaker has to say? Does it represent life in a way that he agrees with? Would it change his perspective on anything? In general, how did he feel about it?
- **Focus Question 4:** What it means to be American can mean incredibly different things to different people. One of the major factors that can affect peoples' viewpoints on the subject is race. Choose 3 of the poems you selected and research the authors briefly. How do you think that author's race affected the way they portray America? Do you notice any similarities across all of the authors' works? What major differences stand out to you?
- **Focus Question 5:** The different media selections for this summer reading assignment reflect America in a variety of different time periods. Choose one of the media you read/watched and construct a paragraph in which you explain to me why you think your selected media displays the most accurate portrayal of America today. Be sure to cite evidence from the text to support your claim.

Response Rubric:

30 Points	Student responds to all 3 focus questions with well-written responses that fully answer the prompting questions, cite evidence from the texts, synthesize information from multiple sources, and display a deep understanding of the source material.
27 Points	Student responds to all 3 focus questions with all of their responses fully answering the prompting questions, displaying their ability to synthesize information from multiple sources, and citing evidence from the relevant texts.
24 Points	Student responds to all 3 focus questions with two or more responses that fully answer the prompting questions and display the student's ability to synthesize information from multiple texts.
21 Points	Student responds to all 3 focus questions with two or more of their answers fully answering the prompting questions.
18 Point	Student responds to two or more of the focus questions with answers that only partially answer the prompting questions.
15 Points	Student does not submit a response to two or more of the focus questions.