

APEX 10: Summer Assignment 2011

The Summer Assignment this year is designed to help develop student visual literacy. This is a significant focus within the 10th grade APEX English curriculum. The movies have been selected on the basis of literary merit (screenplay) and filmic sensibility (technique). Copies should be readily available via Netflix, streaming, and the local library. As you view, focus upon how film creatively constructs meaning and clarifies theme in a unique manner when compared to print media. **It is recommended that you do some online research on each film and in reference to film technique and lexicon.** Be particularly aware of the film terms **mise en scene** and **deep focus**. The films selected for viewing are listed below; encourage your family and fellow rising APEX freshmen to view and discuss any or all of them with you:

On the Waterfront directed by Elia Kazan (1954)
Rear Window directed by Alfred Hitchcock (1954)
High Noon directed by Fred Zinnemann (1952)
Casablanca directed by Michael Curtiz (1942)

Within the first two weeks (depending on other scheduled events) of the Fall Semester, an objective test covering generalized information from the films will be administered. There is no written assignment on any of this work during the summer. Enjoy that fact. However, you are *encouraged* to take cogent notes while viewing in order to better prepare yourself for the fall assessment.

Remember, when viewing the films, to note specifically how they convey meaning in a singular way that is different from novels, short stories, and other printed texts. Pay attention to camera technique, editing, lighting, frame composition, sound, acting, costuming, set design, film editing, mise en scene, deep focus and music.

Have a great summer. I look forward to our class this coming school year.

Mr. T. G. Finkbinder
APEX Coordinator
APEX English 10
Walter Johnson High School
APEX Office: 301-803.7305
email: apex@walterjohnson.com