English 11 Honors Summer Reading

due on the first Friday of the school year

Book Selection

Choose any novel-length work of fiction or creative nonfiction. It should be of appropriate difficulty (written for high school and adult readers) and something you have not read before. Pick something you will enjoy!

Written Responses

- Divide your book into three approximately equal parts.
- As you finish reading each part, respond to the corresponding prompt below.
- Each response should be up to one page double-spaced.

Prompt #1 (First third of book) – Author's Style: Comment thoughtfully on at least two noticeable elements of the writer's style in your book. Do not simply describe them; analyze their effects. Consider:

- **Setting** – What is the effect of the setting, or multiple settings, on the story?
- **Dialogue** – Does the author use any vernacular, or unusually high or low levels of dialogue?
- **Time** – Is there a linear plot structure, or something more complex?
- **Narrator** – What kind of narrator is used? What point of view? Is the narrator reliable?
- **Figurative Language and Word Choice** – Does the author employ any particular types of language, imagery, symbols? What connotations do the author's word choices suggest?
- **Sentence Structure and Syntax** – How does the length or complexity of the sentences affect the storytelling?

Prompt #2 (Second third of book) - Characterization: Write a description of the main character as presented in this part of the book. Discuss multiple methods of characterization, including the character's own words, actions, or thoughts; what others say and think about the character; or a physical description if it is important. Include some exact words from the text in your response.

Prompt #3 (Last third of book) – Theme: Identify one significant theme of the novel. This should be expressed as a complete sentence, not a one-word concept. Remember that themes do not mention details from the story. Explain how the author conveys this theme in the novel, using specific examples from throughout the text.