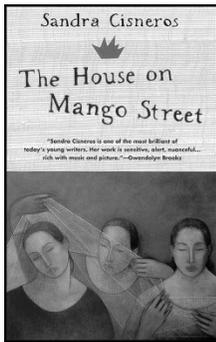


AP English III Summer Reading

Mr. Reeves

Congratulations for choosing AP English for your junior year. The AP program is the best-known and most preeminent program for students that are serious about pursuing college-level class work. If you haven't already done so, you should acquaint yourself with the benefits of the program at apcentral.collegeboard.com. One of the most important thing that you can do to prepare for the AP experience is to take your summer reading requirement seriously. There is only so much time during next school year. Summer reading will only take a small part of your summer, but it is vital to keep you on track.

I have chosen two books for you to read over the summer. Both of these are regularly on suggested book lists for college-bound students. You should soon arrange to secure copies of these before too much of your precious summer slips away. I found both of these on Amazon, used, for about \$4 each (a penny + shipping) The books are:



The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros - This is a very short book, but it contains some deep characters and mature situations. There are no additional assignments, but you should read through the book carefully. A really good idea is to briefly summarize each chapter as you read. Just a few notes about characters and situations will add in your comprehension. There will be an objective-type test on Day 2 of next year over the book.



Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston - Since you will own your own copy, this will be a great chance to practice text annotation. Annotation is just a fancy way of saying that you will be commenting on the book by writing on the actual pages. A fine-tip pencil works best. Some students like to highlight, and I will not absolutely forbid it. However, studies have shown highlighting to be a very ineffective method for comprehension.

Our friends at Bucks County Community College (www.bucks.edu) have shared a nice list for annotation. They instruct you to do the following:

- Underline important terms,
- Circle definitions and meanings,
- Write key words and definitions in the margin,
- Signal where important information can be found with key words or symbols in the margin,
- Write short summaries in the margin at the end of sub-units,
- Write the questions in the margin next to the section where the answer is found, and
- Indicate steps in a process by using numbers in the margin.

You will turn in your annotated copy on Day 1 next year, and I will check them. I will then return them to you to study, and we will test over this book on Regular Test 1 about 2 weeks after school starts.

Please don't start next year with low major grades because you fail to keep up with your summer reading. Remember what Twain said about those that don't read good books - "they are no better off than someone who can't read." Good luck, and I hope that you will enjoy the books.