

Summer Reading for students entering English 11H

Throughout the year, you will be reading American literature from different time periods and regions, reflecting a wide variety of experiences. Books from different eras, which focus on different subjects, will frequently be paired because their authors develop common themes. Your summer reading assignment was designed with such pairings in mind.

In the second half of your summer vacation, read Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) and Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* (1992) Then, compose a thesis based essay which responds to the following questions using both novels as support:

What different relationships can exist when an individual interacts with the natural world? What are the various outcomes of such relationships? How are these relationships, and their outcomes, characterized by Twain and McCarthy? By other American authors over time?

Your essay should be roughly 4-5 pages in length. It must be guided by a strong and original thesis that is expressed using clear and direct language. The structure of your essay's body will be determined by topic sentences, which define the focus of body paragraphs while tying them back to your thesis. Finally, you will make use of meaningful and relevant textual support from both novels, including direct quotations, and a conclusion that explores the broader implications of your topic.

All words and ideas that are not your own, be they direct quotations or paraphrases, must be properly cited using the MLA format. Include a bibliography of works cited. Should you have any questions regarding what to cite and how to cite it, consult [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#).

This assignment will provide me with a sample of your writing, which is an important tool in identifying those writing, reading, and skills that we should work on together to help ensure you have a successful year.

If you have any questions, please contact me at tmonico@hvrhs.org. Enjoy your reading, and I look forward to meeting you in August.

Ms. Monico