

DUAL CREDIT COMPOSITION I & II ENGLISH SUMMER READING INFORMATION

TEACHER: MS. BARROW

BOOK CHOICES:

Students must read **two** books. If you cannot find the book of your choice in the bookstore, you can purchase it from Amazon.

Required for Juniors:

- ***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald** - Jay Gatsby is back, and this time he is incredibly rich. Lavish parties and an obsessive desire to recapture the moment five years earlier when he thought he might have the love of Daisy Buchanan characterize his life in a mansion on Long Island. The frenzy, hope, and disillusion of the roaring 20s in America all come to life in Gatsby's story.

Required for Seniors:

- ***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley*** - *Brave New World* is a dystopian novel that explores the negatives of a ostensibly successful future world in which everyone appears to be content and satisfied, with excessive carnal pleasures yet really, this stability is only achieved by sacrificing freedom in its true sense and the idea of personal responsibility.

Everyone choose one other book from these two choices:

- ***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote** - *In Cold Blood* is a nonfiction book about a gruesome multiple murder of a family in Kansas in 1959. Even though the reader knows about the murders from the beginning, Capote still manages to create suspense for the reader and sympathy for the murderers.
- ***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls*** - Jeannette Walls was raised by an alcoholic father and a "free-spirited" mother. This book chronicles her childhood, which was traumatic and abusive by any standard (though she and her siblings saw it as normal). Her memories, while disturbing, are emotionally powerful and moving.
- ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot** - Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. Learn about their contributions to science and the controversy surrounding them.

(Books marked with an asterisk contain language or references that some might find offensive. For more information, please contact Sharon Bryant at sbryant@fwc.org.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read carefully for **detail and meaning**. Read with a pen or pencil in your hand and make notes in your book as you read. Your teacher will be checking your books for annotations during the first days of the year.

- Circle character names as they first appear and make notes in the margins about who the characters are.
- Mark passages that indicate important character traits not yet revealed and write notes in margin.
- Underline or highlight sentences that stand out to you.
- Write questions or comments in the margins.
- Write notes about theme (what is the message the author is trying to present) in the margins or at the ends of chapters.
- Write key words at the tops of pages that indicate important events or thematic elements covered.
- At the end of each chapter, write a few bullet points that will remind you of the important elements of that chapter.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Expect a quiz or a writing response over your summer reading. Bring your books, a folder, notebook paper, and a pen to class.