

POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

11th Grade Summer Reading

Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all.

- Henry David Thoreau

God bless summer vacation! It is a much-needed break from the rigors of the academic schedule and a time to pursue personal interests more freely. It is also a wonderful opportunity to read books from a variety of disciplines. Enjoy your summer and be sure to read these books before the first day of school:

American Lit: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Hurston (978-0060838676)

Honors: includes *Of Mice and Men*, Steinbeck (978-0140177398)

AP US History *The Jungle*, Sinclair (978-1-59308-118-8) **OR** *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Stowe (978-1840224023) **OR** *Ramona*, Jackson (978-1497400542)

Chemistry: To prepare for the exciting world of chemistry, you have the opportunity to choose between three books to read this summer. While reading, pay attention to how the scientific inquiry process has worked through the ages and how we have managed to understand things we cannot see. Please come to class prepared to discuss at least one process, chemical, or scientist you found interesting in your reading.

- For a general overview of, well, everything: *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bryson (978-0767908184). There is a nice audiobook version narrated by the author.
- For those who enjoy the macabre: *The Poisoner's Handbook, Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*, Blum (978-0143118824)
- For an entertaining introduction to the periodic table: *The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements*, Kean (978-0-316-05163-7)

Check out hpb.com or thriftbooks.com for affordable book. Students may keep journals through the summer to help them recall their thoughts about their reading. These journals may be useful in preparing for class discussions and assessment. If students read their books early in the summer, they may want to review before school begins.

Writing Assignment

AMERICAN LITERATURE: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Write a 500-word reflection in response to the book. Avoid mere plot summary and focus instead on personal reactions and lessons learned.

AP US HISTORY: *Sinclair's The Jungle OR Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin OR Jackson's Ramona*

In no less than 500 words, consider the historical significance of your selected novel and use examples from the text to consider the following:

Due the first full day of class.

1. Research the date and location of publication and how the book was received by the public. How might this be useful information in assessing the historical significance of the novel?
2. What can historians learn of American society from reading this book? Consider the central issue at hand and how the author intends readers to feel about that issue. What is the solution suggested by the novel?
3. Catalog the people encountered throughout the book (that is, create categories and place characters into them – this does not need to be an exhaustive list). How are they a representative cross-section of American society? How are they representative of sectional ideals or attitudes?