

## English IV—SUMMER READING 2010

Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be studying the historical, cultural and social history of Britain through the literature. In preparation for this study, students are required to read Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and one other novel from the list below.

**REQUIRED READING:** *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (Translated by Nevill Cohill) ISBN 0-140-42438-5 Penguin Books. (**After reading complete Assignment 1**)

**Students are required to select a second novel from the list below and complete Assignment 2, after reading.**

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner – Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll

The Once & Future King – T.H. White

1984-- George Orwell

Animal Farm - George Orwell

### **\*\*ASSIGNMENT 1: Annotations**

As you read the book you are required to make marginal written notes. You may use 'post it' notes. **Underline important points, literary techniques and then write notes beside them in the margin with a brief explanation.** When you come to class in August, your books will be collected, and you will receive a test grade for your annotations of the your books. (**\*\*This assignment was created by former AP instructor, Ms. Stane Brojovic. It can be found on St. Joseph High School website.**)

## **REQUIRED ANNOTATIONS:**

**Vocabulary** - Each word you come across that you do not know the definition of, look it up in the dictionary and write a brief definition

**Underline important and interesting passages** to you. Particular vivid images – what effect do they have on the writer’s purpose? Why are they important or interesting?

**Identify literary techniques** used by the author- underline them **and write in the margins the effect** - if the technique helped bring the author’s point across (e.g. analogy, hyperbole, parody, allusion, paradox, personification, voice, tone, tense, themes, alliteration, repetition, metaphors, irony, satire, symbols, etc. - just to point a out a few)

**Know the background of Chaucer**, know the historical times he lived in; know chivalry, courtly love, the church, romance, fabliaux, seasons, description of clothing, physiognomy, irony, sarcasm (Read the Introduction to the book).

## **ASSIGNMENT 2**

**For your choice novel, choose two (2) of the following activities to complete.** Have the assignments typed and ready to turn in at the first class meeting:

1. Write a paragraph of biographical information about the author, including the era in which he or she wrote and other works by this author.
2. In at least two paragraphs, discuss a couple of reactions you have developed toward this writer and his or her ideas. Be sure to include how your views about the writer and his or her ideas have changed, if in fact they have.
3. Discuss, in one paragraph, one important theme or idea about which this work causes you to think.
4. In one paragraph, identify a particular incident or time in the subject’s life that proves to be significant and then explain its importance in another paragraph.
5. In a paragraph, discuss the importance of some aspect of the writer’s background, i.e., his color, his religion, etc., and how it connects to the writer’s perspective on life as portrayed in the book.

### **ASSIGNMENT 3: COLLEGE ADMISSION ESSAY**

By the close of this year, you should have completed and submitted college applications to the college you want to attend. To begin your preparation, you will practice responding to some essay prompts from well-known colleges. Choose one of the prompts listed and write a 500 word draft of your response. This will be due the **second week of class in a file folder**.

- What work of art, music, science, mathematics, or literature has influenced your thinking, and in what way?
- Discuss how a particular work of music, literature, or art has inspired your life.
- Tell us how a particular book, play, film, piece of music, dance performance, scientific theory or experiment or work of art has influenced you. If you choose a novel, film or play, assume we know the plot.
- Consider the books you have read in the last year or two either for school or for leisure. Please discuss the way in which one of them changed your understanding of the world, other people, or yourself.
- Tell us about a situation where you have not been successful and what you have learned from the experience.