

Welcome to AP English Literature!

If you like to think creatively, analytically, and critically – this class is for you.

I am excited to work with mature young adults who like to think and discuss important concepts that arise from our class reading. I am especially excited to discuss the summer reading with you in the fall. This year I plan to infuse more contemporary works into our curriculum while fulfilling the need to address the last 400 years of literature. It's a lot to cover, but I want to make the course as interesting and engaging as possible while providing you with the skills you need to be successful.

This is a college level class, and students have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking the AP English Literature exam in May 2016. Passing AP exams can save you and your family thousands of dollars in tuition and gives you a head start next year.

NOTE: If you need to find electronic copies of this assignment, please go to **mscornelius.com**. They will be posted there under Summer Assignment 2015. You can also find them on the SHS web site.

Summer Reading Assignment 2015

We will be reading *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. Ms. Morrison won the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. This novel has been listed on the AP exam in the past. I will be rereading the novel and doing the same assignment with you this summer. It is an amazing story that integrates myth, ritual, history, and magical realism. It is an excellent summer novel. ☺

- 1) **Get a copy of *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison.** Amazon has inexpensive used copies, and there should be copies at Goodwill, etc. for a few dollars.
- 2) **Read the text and annotate it.** Your annotations will help you with your assignment; however, they will not be graded.
- 3) **Complete five journal log sheets – one for every three chapters you read.** You can find an electronic version of this two-sided document on **mscornelius.com** or SHS's web site.

Some things to look for:

Motifs: Any element, subject, idea or concept that is constantly present through the entire body of literature.

Allusions: An allusion is a figure of speech whereby the author refers to a subject matter such as a place, event, or literary work by way of a passing reference. It is up to the reader to make a connection to the subject being mentioned.

Symbolism: Symbolism is the use of an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning.

Characterization: The step by step process wherein an author introduces and then describes a character either directly through his/her actions, appearance, feelings, etc. or through the perspective of other characters.

Please bring your text and hard copies of your journal log sheets the first day of school. You will start out the year with an **A** assuming you followed the assignment directions carefully. Happy reading!