

SUMMER READING - 2016

Women's Literature – 12th

In September we will delve into the following books – it will be **part of your 1st quarter grade.**

Required Reading (Please buy your TWO books – New/used paper copy or E reader is fine!)

1. The Bean Trees – Barbara Kingsolver

A warmhearted and highly entertaining first novel in which a poor but plucky Kentucky girl with a sharp tongue, soft heart and strong spirit sets out on a cross-country trip and arrives at surprising new meanings for love, friendship, and family--as well as overcoming the big and little fears that inhibit lives. Taylor Greer has always been afraid of two things: tires, one of which she saw explode and cripple a local tobacco farmer; and pregnancy, the common, constricting fate of her own mother and, generally, of young girls in Pittman County, KY, where she has grown up. To avoid the latter, Taylor, born Marietta, sets out on a set of the former to find a new life in the West. What she doesn't count on, however, is her flighty '55 Volkswagon temporarily "giving out" in the Oklahoma flatlands or the ditching of a dumbstruck Indian baby in the car while she has it fixed. By the time Taylor's car breaks down again, and finally, in Tucson, Taylor has figured out that the baby has been badly abused, but not how to support it or herself, or how to lure the baby back into trust, growth, and speech. So--she takes a job in a dreaded tire-repair shop from which her car refuses to budge, and meets a motley collection of sanctuary workers, refugees, other ex-Kentuckians, social workers, and spinsters who, together, help her to bolster her courage and create a real family for her sweet, stunned, unbidden child. A lovely, funny, touching and humane debut.-**Kirkus Review**

2. The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan

An inordinately moving, electric exploration of two warring cultures fused in love, focused on the lives of four Chinese women--who emigrated, in their youth, at various times, to San Francisco--and their very American 30-ish daughters. Tan probes the tension of love and often angry bewilderment as the older women watch their daughters "as from another shore," and the daughters struggle to free themselves from maddening threads of arcane obligation. More than the gap between generations, more than the dwindling of old ways, the Chinese mothers most fear that their own hopes and truths--the secret gardens of the spirit that they have cultivated in the very worst of times--will not take root. **A splendid first novel! – Kirkus Review**

ASSIGNMENT FOR BOTH BOOKS – This assignment is designed to help your reading comprehension.

While you read, use Post-it Notes/or highlight and make notes on your Ipad.

Use Post-It Notes or annotate in margins as you are reading Jane Eyre. The post-it notes/annotations should help you remember details, about characters and plot. It is also a way to help you read critically and keep you engaged with the book. You may want to put post-it notes in your book or highlight when...

- a new character is introduced
- a character trait is shown due to action
- a major plot shift occurs
- a new place is introduced
- you don't understand something or want to discuss something (? with your thought or question)
- you are excited by something (I love them together! Or She is so funny!)

Do not get too carried away with this – you should read the book to enjoy it (not furiously stop constantly), but the notes do seem to help people keep track of characters, plot points, etc. Different readers will use this technique to varying degrees, but I do want you to use it.

Enjoy the summer and enjoy your reading!

-Ms. Halloran



