AP Literature and Composition Summer Work!

Novels

1. *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison
2. *Black Water* by Joyce Carol Oates
3. *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich

This summer you have three books to read. You have an assignment for each text, you will be tested on all three when we return to school, **AND** you will use them **again** for term two on the Postmodern Literature Research Paper. All summer work must be **handwritten**. Familiarize yourself with the list of motifs and symbols provided so that you can follow some while reading each story. You should know that throughout our school year together you will be encouraged to look up words, people, places, or events you don't know while reading to further your own context knowledge. It would be a good idea to start with the summer work. It will be clear through class discussion who has researched beyond the novel. For example, it could be as simple as using the glossary of terms linked in this document that goes along with *Tracks*, looking into the Ted Kennedy car accident for *Black Water*, or the death of Emmett Till in *Song of Solomon*.

**Motif and Symbol chart that applies to all three stories:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motif: An idea that recurs. The idea will come up over and over again throughout the text.</th>
<th>Symbol: Commonly an object, action, or color. It usually represents more than one idea or changes meaning over the course of the story. (Can come up one time and still be symbolic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Race</td>
<td>● Flying/Leaping/Jumping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Gender</td>
<td>● Rope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Death</td>
<td>● Flowers/Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Identity</td>
<td>● Money/Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Truth</td>
<td>● Water (in any form)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● The Past</td>
<td>● Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Sex/Sexuality</td>
<td>● Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Mercy</td>
<td>● Dreams</td>
</tr>
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<td>● Paper</td>
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**Song of Solomon:**

*Song of Solomon* is written in two parts. Part I is chapters 1-9 and Part II is chapters 10-15. If you’re looking for a way to distinguish between the two, Part I is set in Michigan and the main character Milkman is static (unchanged). Part II travels to Danville, Pennsylvania and Shalimar, Virginia and Milkman experiences some life-changing realizations. The time period is roughly the 1950s.

**Part A:** For each chapter please write 4-8 bullet points of summary.  
Chapter one example:
- Insurance agent (and Seven Days member) Robert Smith wears a pair of blue wings, goes to the roof of Mercy Hospital, and leaps
- First Corinthians and Magdalene called Lena Dead drop their basket of red velvet roses and the crowd helps chase after the roses
- Ruth Foster Dead goes into labor with Milkman (aka Macon Dead III)
- Pilate Dead is present and singing the Sugarman (later Solomon) song
- A young Guitar Bains runs to get help from the all white Mercy Hospital
- Ruth is the first black woman taken care of in the hospital and Milkman is the first black baby born there

**Part B:** Please choose from the chart and write one paragraph of analysis on a symbol and one paragraph of analysis on a motif. Do not exceed the front side of a sheet of lined paper for one paragraph.
**Black Water:**
This novella is the fictional retelling of a real event. Former Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy (and presidential hopeful following in his brother JFK’s footsteps) was out driving late one night on Chappaquiddick island off of Martha’s Vineyard when his car veered off the road and flipped into a ravine where the car was submerged in water. Ted escaped the car and swam to safety. His passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, died. There are many versions of this story that you can research, but *Black Water* is the fictional retelling from Mary Jo’s perspective, renamed Kelly Kelleher in the novella.

**Part A:** Please create a list of 5-10 bullets for each category containing the most important information
- Childhood, including parent influence
- Middle School/High School experiences with peers
- Time with G--
- At Buffy’s house
- Driving with the Senator
- In the water

**Part B:** Please choose from the symbol and motif chart and write one paragraph of analysis on a symbol and one paragraph of analysis on a motif. Do not exceed the front side of a sheet of lined paper for one paragraph.

**Tracks:**
The story is set in North Dakota and written from two different perspectives, one from old Indian Nanapush, the other from young half-Indian Pauline. The story focuses on the Pillager, Kashpaw, and Morrissey families. The story spans the early 1900s and follows Native American tribes in their fight to keep land that is slowly being taken away from them through bribes or force, and the repercussions of that loss on family.


**Part A:** For each chapter please write 4-8 bullet points of summary.

**Part B:** Please choose from the symbol and motif chart and write one paragraph of analysis on a symbol and one paragraph of analysis on a motif. Do not exceed the front side of a sheet of lined paper for one paragraph.

**What to expect in class:**
You will write your first 40-minute timed write essay in class on *Tracks*. We WILL NOT discuss this text together until after you write the essay. However, we will do some practice 40-minute essays with the other two summer reading books so that you have a general sense of how to tackle the question. In class we will have a graded Socratic Seminar on *Black Water* and *Song of Solomon*.

All summer work is due on 9/4/18 whether you are here or not. No exceptions.

**ALL WORK MUST BE HANDWRITTEN**
Please do not hesitate to email over the summer if you have any questions at aferrara@slrsd.org :) and hbates@slrsd.org