

English 11 Honors—Summer Reading Assignment 2019

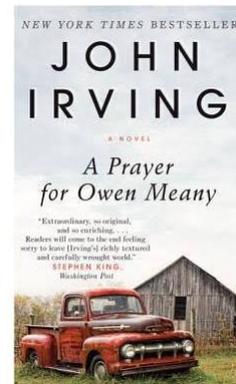
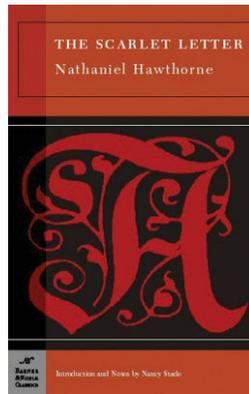
REQUIRED SUMMER READING

The Scarlett Letter

ISBN: 0142437263

A Prayer for Owen Meany

ISBN: 0062204092

**Welcome to English 11 Honors**

“All literature, highbrow or low, from the Aeneid onward, is fan fiction.... Through parody and pastiche, allusion and homage, retelling and reimagining the stories that were told before us and that we have come of age loving –amateurs— we proceed, seeking out the blank spaces in the map that our favorite writers, in their greatness and negligence, have left us, hoping to pass on to our own readers –should we be lucky enough to find any- some of the pleasure that we ourselves have taken in the stud that we love: to get in on the game. All novels are sequels; influence is bliss.” – Michael Chabon

For your reading assignment this summer please read *The Scarlett Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. While you are reading, consider the themes of sin, guilt, shame, social stigmatization, faith, and divine purpose. Use these texts to help you hone your close reading skills; be sure to pay close attention to symbolism, themes, and allusions.

After you have finished reading *The Scarlett Letter* and *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, please write a 5-paragraph analytic essay that compares and contrasts *The Scarlett Letter* with *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. How does Irving harken back to his predecessor, Hawthorne? Where and how does *A Prayer for Owen Meany* diverge from *The Scarlett Letter*? In your essay, you may want to touch on how theme, plot, symbolism, and allusion are used to compare these two texts.

Your essay should have a clear thesis statement, introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Please be sure to use evidence (references and specific quotations) from the two texts to support your thesis statement.

MLA Format: Your paper should be typed in MLA format, including a title, 12pt. Times New Roman typeface, double spaced, with 1” margins all around. Be mindful of spelling and grammar. Show the word count at the bottom of your paper.

Come to class with your printed essays in hand. Essays submitted after that will be considered late and be marked down according to the policy outlined in our syllabus.

Summer Reading expectations:

All students who enroll on or before August 22, 2019 must read the book(s) assigned for their course and complete this summer reading assignment.

All students who enroll on or after August 23, 2019 should begin reading the summer reading book(s) upon enrollment and email the teacher for details about assignment expectations.

All new and returning students should bring a copy of the assigned novel(s) with them on the first day of class.