

## Half Moon Bay High School AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

### I: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

As you read this novel, notice how Steinbeck alternates the story of the Joad family as they migrate west to California with intercalary chapters that relate to topical issues and/or universal moral and philosophical questions. Intercalary means "inserted between other elements or parts." Pay particular attention to the relationship between the fictional plot line of the Joad family and the non-fiction oriented, intercalary chapters. Assess how each chapter functions toward establishing and expressing Steinbeck's rhetorical objectives or persuasive purpose. Focus on the following questions: what is it that Steinbeck is trying to convey to the reader and for what purpose?

As you read the intercalary chapters select one quote that is reflective of the chapter's rhetorical objectives (**Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, and 29**). Transcribe the quote and then discuss Steinbeck's point of persuasion (rhetorical objective). Each chapter discussion should be between 150-200 words. You will have to take an exam during the first week of the fall semester.

### II: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Read *Huckleberry Finn* and identify several of Twain's satirical targets and find literary criticism that discusses these targets. Use the Peninsula Library System web-site (see below for path and other helpful information) or other web-sites with the goal of learning why *Huckleberry Finn* is considered a satirical novel. Then write a thesis driven essay that discusses Twain's satirical objectives and how he uses the novel to target them. Observe MLA guidelines in regard to formatting, parenthetical reference, and Works Cited. See the MLA section under the "Research and Documenting Sources" link in Purdue's University's on-line writing lab ([owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)) or the Diana Hacker MLA resource center site ([bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e\\_ch08\\_o.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_o.html)).

**Requirements:** Typed; Word count--750; Points possible: 100; Due: first day of school. Bring a digital copy via your Schoolloop locker or e-mail to class on the first day of school. You will be making a posting to turnitin.com.

### Peninsula Library System Web-Site Directions

- Path: <http://plsinfo.org/>; *e-services; Articles and Databases; A-Z List*. You must input the numerical code below the barcode on your library card to access *Articles and Databases*.
- Databases that will be helpful toward your research: Academic OneFile, Expanded Academic ASAP, General OneFile, Literature Resource Center.

### III. What is our Zeitgeist?

Write a persuasive statement that is an expression of the times in which you live—the zeitgeist. Be sure to have your statement embody the spirit of contemporary life and how you perceive it. You will be giving a dramatic reading of this statement during the first week of school. Typed; Word count: 300 words; Points possible for text: 60; Points possible for dramatic reading: 40.

*Zeitgeist* is the general cultural, intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and/or political climate within a nation or even specific groups, along with the general ambiance, morals, socio-cultural direction, and mood associated with an era. (Wikipedia.org)

Contact me at [boysena@cabrillo.k12.ca.us](mailto:boysena@cabrillo.k12.ca.us) during the summer if you have any questions.