**Honors English II – American Literature**

**Summer Assignment, 2017**

The following assignments are due the first day of school.

**ASSIGNMENT #1: SUMMER READING**

The following book should be completed by the first day of class. A summer reading assessment will be given at the start of the school year. Texts should be properly annotated, and a Major Work Sheet should be completed for each text.

Please purchase the following editions of each text. In order to facilitate classroom discussions, it is important that we are working from the same editions.

* **Ethan Frome**, by Edith Wharton (Penguin Classics – ISBN: 9780142437803)

TEXT ANNOTATIONS

Annotating a text involves writing directly in a work of literature while you read it. You should read with a pen, pencil, and highlighter in hand. Annotations should take place directly **in** the book, written **on** the page.

Ways to actively engage with the text:

* At the end of each chapter or section, briefly summarize what just happened
* Note the personality of characters (motivations, fears, dreams, etc.)
* Mark any symbolism and what you think each symbol represents
* Trace the themes of the work and note parts of the text that support these themes
* Note important passages and quotes, and comment on why they are important
* Ask questions and talk with the author (emotionally respond to the text)
* Identify literary techniques the author uses (foreshadowing, dramatic irony, point-of-view, etc.)

*Caution: While highlighting and underlining the text is valuable, do not underline and highlight everything. Your comments are more important, and if you highlight everything, nothing stands out*.

**ASSIGNMENT #2: MAJOR WORKS SHEET**

Complete a major work sheet for each summer reading. While some outside research will be required to identify information about the author and the genre, you are asked to **refrain from using Sparknotes, Cliffnotes, Shmoop, or similar online summaries while conducting your analysis**. I want to see how you analyze the work on your own, not how well you can copy from someone else’s summary. Points will be deducted for quotations, themes, symbols, plot outlines, and character descriptions derived from online sources.

Be neat, clear, and detailed with your answers.

Late or incomplete data sheets will lose credit.

**ASSIGNMENT #3: CURRENT NEWS SUMMARIES JOURNAL**

**Twice** per week, you will consult a news source and **summarize** one local, national, or international event. Each summary should be one paragraph consisting of at least seven sentences. Cite your source (FOX News/CNN/The Philadelphia Inquirer/etc.) and write the date of entry. Include your opinion of the article you are summarizing. Articles should vary – the ideas is that you should be aware of the world around you, whether it involves politics, sports, entertainment, civics, etc. Begin this assignment the week of **June 18th** and continue through the last week of August. This will result in **22 entries**. **All entries should be typed**.