Weaver Academy 2009 Summer Reading Choices for Honors English 11

Choose One (Assignment Page follows Choices for Honors English 11)

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard won independence. Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learned a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly-knit black community there.

A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines

A young man who returns to the 1940s Cajun country to teach school, visits a black youth who is on death row for a crime he did not commit. With the wisdom and guidance of the condemned man's grandmother, together they come to understand the heroism of resisting with dignity.

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier

A Confederate soldier's trek brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal contact with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, as he makes his way back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

This eclectic fiction records the lives of a group of men who have survived a tour in Vietnam. They battle the enemy, or maybe more the idea of the enemy, and in the process, battle each other.

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

Captured by the voice of a Southern adolescent, the reader becomes enveloped in the hot South Carolina summer and one of most tumultuous times the country has ever seen. A story of mothers lost and found, love, conviction, and forgiveness, this novel boldly explores life's wounds and reveals the deeper meaning of home and "choosing what matters."

Accompanying Assignments for Honors English 11

For the one book you have chosen to read from your summer reading list complete a Dialectical Journal, also known as text connections (see below), and in addition, complete a creative project. This could very easily pertain to your area of concentration or a special talent you have. Examples of this could be a sculpture or painting which reflects what the work meant to you; an original piece of music or song which you would play or perform capturing the mood of the piece; an original dance to music which portrays the theme of the work or one character from the work, an oral interpretive reading of a selection from the work, artistically design a set if the work were going to be adapted as a play or a large movie poster if it were adapted to a screenplay; a CD which records music which takes the listener through the book. For you creative writers, you could write a collection of poems relating to the work or excerpts of a character's journal. These are just some ideas you can use as a springboard; be sure you are prepared to explain your project.

Dialectical Journaling (Text Connections)

A dialectical journal is a double entry reading journal. It requires at least one text, a sheet of lined notebook paper, and a writing implement.

On the left side of the lined page, write down a meaningful word, phrase, or a line or two from the text you are reading. Document the page where the quote is located within the text.

On the right hand side of the page, reflect, react, or respond to the words, phrases, or lines you've taken from the text. You may also write questions for yourself about the text or hypothetically pose questions to the author, speaker, or narrator of the text.

The purposes of the dialectical journal are for you to make personal connections to the text, practice deeper critical thinking skills, reflect on the relevance of the text, and learn how to craft good, open-ended, probing questions.

EXAMPLE:

A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift, from 40 Model Essays

Dialectical Journal

Page	**Quotation**	**Reader Reaction**
Page 362	"I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine, and my wife past childbearing."	No wonder Swift proposes his outrageous solution to the social problem of poverty and hunger. He has nothing to lose. I wonder how I would react if I were a parent reading this!