English III Honors:
Summer Reading Assignment
Presented by:
C. A. Erwin High School English III Honors teachers

Due Date: Your first day of English class, first or second semester

Themes: adventure, abuse, racism, ignorance vs. innocence, the meaning of “home”

Texts: 1. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (read the novel)

2. Student Choice Novel/Film: (choose one – you may read the novel OR watch the Film OR Both!)
   All the Pretty Horses by Cormack McCarthy -- Sixteen year old, fatherless John Grady Cole leaves his Texas home for answers and adventures in Mexico.
   The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd – Fourteen year old, motherless Lily Owens runs away from her South Carolina home and seeks refuge and religion in a tight-knit African-American community.

Goals: Student will read/watch and reflect upon one classic text and one contemporary text that share common themes by marking text, recording thinking, and writing an essay.

Assignments:
Pre-Reading: Before reading the novels, read the article below about a modern day Huck Finn. Write a short, journal-style response that addresses this question: “What role does home life play in an adolescent’s ability to follow social norms, expectations, and laws?” You may incorporate support from your own experience and from the article.

During Reading: While reading/viewing both texts, take note of significant quotations or excerpts that reflect the themes above and that illustrate connections between the two texts. Hold your thinking about these quotations in a method of your choosing (sticky notes, columned chart, margin annotations, foldable, etc.)

After Reading: After reading/viewing and reflecting, write a 3-4-page essay that argues whether John Grady Cole or Lily Owens is/is not a modern day Huck Finn. Think of the characteristics listed above, such as family life, education, and societal expectations.
We will use this essay as a diagnostic tool to see what you already know about argumentative and critical writing and where we should begin our focus.

Support: We are available for questions through our email, tonya.white@bscemail.org or cecil.carter@bscemail.org.

Resources: These books are available in our community libraries and at local bookstores, like Barnes and Noble and Mr. K’s Used Books.