

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.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/teen-bandit-colton-harris-moore-called-modernday/story?id=8653404&page=3>

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@bcsemail.org or cecil.carter@bcsemail.org.

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