

MEDWAY HIGH SCHOOL

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING AND WRITING

Due: 1st day of school

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Required Readings:

1. The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (do not read *The Custom House/Intro*) (Juniors)
2. Beowulf (Seamus Heaney trans.) (Seniors)
3. Any Modern Biography (written in the last two decades) of a significant global figure * (Juniors and Seniors)
4. The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (Junior and Seniors)

Required Writings:

For these **novels**, keep a journal and respond accordingly:

- a. Write the date and approximate time you did the reading. You will use these journals in class and receive a grade for this work
- b. Write a brief summary of the author's biography, when and where he/she grew up, etc.
- c. Discuss how you think the author's biography may have influenced the piece
- d. Contemplate the author's purpose. How was it connected to the author's biography, or the time period, society, and emerging ideas and inventions?
- e. List 3-5 quotes from the active reading that appeal to you and convey the author's purpose; discuss those connections briefly. Provide page numbers.
- f. Discuss any recurring themes or points and how each is significant.
- g. Provide your opinion of the work, as well as support/ specific details.

* For the **biography**: please complete parts e and g **only**. Then discuss what new controversial issues or general information about the figure have been presented, unearthed, or elaborated upon.

Please note that the journals can be handwritten or typed; bulleted notes can be used for b, c, e, & f.