

TO: All incoming American Studies Honors (“ASH”) students

FROM: Mr. Carnes & Mr. Trinkner

RE: ASH Summer Reading Assignment

The 2009 summer reading list for all incoming ASH students consists of three works:

- *The Awakening* (by Kate Chopin)
- *On the Road* (by Jack Kerouac)
- *The American Political Tradition* (Richard Hofstadter)

Assignment: For starters, all three books will be available at Boulder Bookstore this summer. If purchase presents a problem, please call Pete Carnes @ 303-809-9844. *The American Political Tradition* does not need to be read over the summer; however, you will need to own it, as it will be used throughout the school year. *The Awakening* and *On the Road* need to be read before the school year begins. Of course, we also recommend marking the books and taking journal-style notes as you read. Active readers respond to the text as they read; they monitor comprehension, predict, agree, disagree, recall related experiences, ask questions, connect life with the text, and make connections with other texts. Your thorough understanding of the summer selections will provide a starting point for our discussions and early-year assignments; it will also indicate your level of commitment to this rigorous advanced class. During the first few weeks of school, you will have many assignments that relate to the summer readings: tests, in-class essays, prepared essays, research, discussions, and presentations. Certainly, you should enjoy the devouring of these texts as a pleasurable opportunity to practice active-reading skills.

Please pay particular attention to the following literary terms, as their analysis will constitute the majority of the related early-semester work.

- Plot
- Theme
- Tone
- Mood
- Characterization

Finally, remember the central focus for ASH is to understand connections between the history and literature of our country. As you read the novels, consider how each respective author writes a story that, in some way, serves as a reflection of and reaction to her or his cultural environment.

As this class reflects many aspects of a college-level course, you should expect that the readings reflect those of higher-education offerings and, thus, incorporate some mature content and themes. Thanks for your time, and please don't hesitate to email if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Carnes & Mr. Trinkner

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