

English III Summer Reading Assignment

Please **read and annotate** BOTH of the following books. Thoughtful, careful, and reflective reading takes time. Unplug and disconnect from your digital world and read with a pencil in hand, underlining passages and making notes in the margins. Use sticky tabs or Post-Its to mark pages. Don't worry about underlining or marking the "wrong" passages or pages—this is *your* reading experience.

As you read, think. Think about not only what's going on in the text, but what messages are conveyed, and how? What values are promoted and encouraged, and what values are discouraged or looked upon with disdain? Is the writer criticizing an aspect of his or her society? What is being mocked, mourned, celebrated, or lamented? These are just a few questions you might consider as you figure out what you think about the text you are reading. You can also follow this guide for reading and annotating, and keep in mind that we'll have a quiz in the first week of school, followed by several weeks of class discussion and a graded writing assignment:

- Look for the development of certain **themes, metaphors, and symbols**;
- Examine how **characterization** is achieved;
- Consider **point of view** and how the story is told (Who is the narrator? Is the story chronological? How are flashbacks used and why?);
- Explore how **setting** is depicted and what this reveals about characters and themes;
- Consider the language in each novel and how the language contributes thematically.

Required Books:

[The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)

First published in 1925, this quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s. The story is told by Nick Carraway, who moves to New York from the midwest and hopes to start a career. As Daisy's cousin and Gatsby's neighbor, Nick provides an inside glimpse of Gatsby and the Buchanans while simultaneously observing with an outsider's perspective.

[Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston](#)

Published in 1937 and regarded as a classic of the Harlem Renaissance, Hurston's novel follows Janie Crawford as she searches for her own identity and voice. In this frame story, Janie tells her best friend Phoeby about her life, her search for love, and the journey that led her back home to Eatonville, Florida. An omniscient, 3rd person narrator controls the story, but Janie speaks in the 1st person quite a bit. All the characters, including Janie, speak in a Southern, African-American dialect of the 1920s and 1930s that is best read aloud. Reading the dialect aloud will allow the language to come to life and help clarify meaning. Janie's story is rich with symbolism, hope, heartache, and triumph.