

Spring 2010

Dear AP Candidate,

I am excited about your interest in the AP English Language and Composition course at Hickory High. I hope you have an enjoyable summer. To add a little excitement to those boring days at the beach, I am assigning summer reading and an assignment to go with it.

Your summer reading selections are *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass and *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt.

It is preferable to purchase the books. This way you can mark as you read. Barnes and Nobles is prepared to handle a large demand. You can also purchase the books on amazon.com. These also can be found in your local libraries. I have some copies of *Douglass*.

WARNING: The following assignments cannot be completed in the week before school. They require thoughtful engagement over the course of many weeks in order to avoid becoming overwhelming.

Assignments

Criteria

--All written work must be typed in 12 point font, Times News Roman, and Double-Spaced.

--All work is to be in hard copy form, turned in the first day of the 2010-2011 school year. Each work is a test grade (2 total). Your summer reading assignments will be assessed the first 9 weeks of the grading period. A letter grade penalty will be assessed for each day and each work that is late. I cannot make exception for printer failures.

--In order to continue with the full year AP course, summer reading must be completed. Taking a zero will not be allowed.

--All work must be your own. **Any sources you use must be presented on a bibliography page.**

A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass writing assignments

1. Write a two to three page paper chronicling the owners and overseers of Frederick Douglass, including their relationships with one another and their treatment of him.

2. Chapter 2 alludes to the Negro song, "The Great House Farm." How does this song affect Douglass and why? When Douglass escaped to the north, what was the common misunderstanding that he realized regarding Negro spirituals?

Research Negro Spirituals from slave days, and choose one song. Write the song, and make your commentary on the underlying meaning and the emotional impact. Be sure to give your source.

3. Frederick noticed irony in the treatment he received from the more religious owners. Give evidence from his personal experiences and some of his observations in a well-supported two page paper.

4. Douglass makes several poignant points in the appendix. Comment on the two poems he records. Paraphrase the message of each, and explain why you think Douglass includes these poems in his appendix. Be sure to make references to the poems in your discussion.

Angela's Ashes

Style and Perspective

Write a two page essay discussing the following:

McCourt's book is unique because of its perspective and style. Comment on McCourt's style and perspective and how it adds or detracts from the book. Be sure to **cite evidence** to back your ideas.

You will take a test on *Angela's Ashes* during the first week of class.