

# Honors English 11 – American Literature

## Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

To prepare for the academic rigor of the Honors English class, students are required to complete summer reading and writing assignments. Completion of summer work is a prerequisite for enrollment in the fall; failure to submit your essay on the first day of school (August 26<sup>th</sup>) will result in reassignment to Intensive English 11 or English 11, depending on enrollment availability.

If at this point you elect NOT to enter the course, **you must tell the Counseling Office BEFORE JUNE 5**, so that a counselor may remove you from the course and enable a wait-listed student to take your place.

1. Read *The Grapes of Wrath* (John Steinbeck, 1939) and **ONE** of the following:

*The Glass Castle* (Jeannette Walls, 2005) **OR**

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Sherman Alexie, 2007)

2. Each of these texts features a distinct family facing tremendous challenges, and each family has qualities or attributes that allow it to survive and/or thrive despite extremely difficult circumstances. Write an essay in which you identify, compare, and contrast at least two attributes that assist these families in their journeys through life. Be sure to address and cite material from both *The Grapes of Wrath* and your second text.

### Format for Essay:

600-800 words

Double spaced

Times New Roman, 12 pt font

1” margins (adjust margins slightly if necessary to avoid single sentences on final page)

MLA header format: student ID #, teacher name, course name, and date in upper left corner

MLA subsequent page number format: student ID # and page number in upper right corner

Your essay AND the Academic Integrity Contract due on the first day of school.

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**