

Honors English 2 Summer Assignments:

Congratulations! If you are reading this letter, you have been chosen to participate in the AP program your sophomore year. This is a rare and beneficial experience. You will work hard, but potentially, you will be rewarded handsomely. The hard work begins now.

Reading Assignment: This summer you will be responsible for reading two novels:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

The latter novel will provide an interesting bridge from World to American literature, as Yann is an Indian living in Canada. Meanwhile, the former is the quintessential colonial American Romantic novel. Both novels contain interesting social views of religion.

Copies of either book can be borrowed from the Oakcrest English department.

Writing Assignment: You will write two essays:

Essay One: Compare/contrast the role of religion in these two novels. Be sure your thesis outlines the way religion negatively and positively shapes both Hester and Pi. Write an introduction that evinces your own personal relationship (or non-relationship) with religion/God/spiritually/etc.

Essay Two: Introduce yourself to me by describing a particularly memorable moment in your life. It could be proud, sad, happy or embarrassing, just try to tell a story that captures the “essence” of who you are.

Neither essay has a length requirement. All documents submitted to my course should be double spaced.