**ENGLISH II HONORS 2019 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT PAGE 1**

***DIRECTIONS:*** READ THE WORKS IN THIS ASSIGNMENT: BEN FRANKLIN'S ESSAY, TWO EDGAR LEE MASTERS' POEMS, AND A NOVEL OF YOUR CHOICE FROM THE PROVIDED LIST. COMPLETE AND TYPE THREE ESSAYS, MLA COMPLIANT, AND STAPLE THEM IN 1-2-3 ORDER. ALL ESSAYS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 12, 2019. **AGAIN,** **PLEASE TYPE, MLA** **STYLE; HANDWRITTEN ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. DOUBLE SPACE YOUR TYPING, USE MLA HEADING AND HEADER, AND MAKE 1" MARGINS, LEFT, RIGHT, AND BOTTOM.**

***ESSAY ONE DIRECTIONS***:

The following excerpt is taken from Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography.* Read the passage carefully and develop an essay of **400-500 words with paragraph divisions** that evaluates the validity of Franklin's assertions about the ability to justify one's actions through reasoning. Use evidence from your reading or experience to make your argument convincing. Please use context clues or find definitions of words that are not familiar to you.

I believe I have omitted mentioning that in my first voyage from Boston, being becalmed off Block Island, our people set about catching cod and hauled up a great many. Hitherto I had stuck to my resolution of not eating animal food; and on this occasion I considered with my Master Tryon, the taking of every fish as a kind of unprovoked murder, since none of them had or ever could do us any injury that might justify the slaughter. All this seemed very reasonable, but I had formerly been a great lover of fish, and when this came hot out of the frying pan, it smelled admirably well. I balanced some time between principle and inclination; till I recollected, that when the fish were opened, I saw smaller fish taken out of their stomachs: Then, thought I, if you eat one another, I don't see why we mayn't eat you. So I dined upon cod very heartily and continued to eat with other people, returning only now and then occasionally to a vegetable diet. So convenient a thing it is to be a reasonable creature, since it enables one to find or make a reason for everything one has a mind to do.

***ESSAY TWO DIRECTIONS***:

EDGAR LEE MASTERS (1868-1950) wrote *Spoon River Anthology* in 1915. It is a poetry collection in which each poem is entitled with a fictitious character's name, and that character speaks of his/her life from the grave. The fame of this collection rests on its portraiture of Americans from the turn of the last century. The poems capture the taste of life in the Midwest, of life on a farm, of life in a small town, and of life as those classic Americans knew it. Following are two poems from the anthology. Please read each carefully and IN ONE ESSAY OF 400-500 WORDS, ANALYZE THE AUTHOR'S IMAGERY via DICTION CHOICES. Be certain to use words from the poems in quotes to support your analytical comments. Use context clues or find definitions of any words with which you are unfamiliar.

**NANCY KNAPP**

**Well, don't you see this was the way of it:**

**We bought the farm with what he inherited,**

**And his brothers and sisters accused him of poisoning**

**His father's mind against the rest of them**

**And we never had any peace with our treasure. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

**The murrain took the cattle, and the crops failed. PAGE 2**

**And lightning struck the granary.**

**So we mortgaged the farm to keep going.**

**And he grew silent and was worried all the time.**

**Then some of the neighbors refused to speak to us,**

**And took sides with his brothers and sisters.**

**And I had no place to turn, as one may say to himself,**

**At an earlier time in life: "No matter,**

**So and so is my friend, or I can shake this off**

**With a little trip to Decatur."**

**Then the dreadfulest smells infested the rooms.**

**So I set fire to the beds and the old witch-house**

**Went up in a roar of flame,**

**As I danced in the yard with waving arms,**

**While he wept like a freezing steer.**

**DEACON TAYLOR**

**I belonged to the church,**

**And to the party of prohibition;**

**And the villagers thought I died of eating watermelon.**

**In truth I had cirrhosis of the iiver,**

**For every noon for thirty years,**

**I slipped behind the prescription partition**

**In Trainor's drug store**

**And poured a generous drink**

**From the bottle marked**

**"*Spiritus frumenti."***

***ESSAY THREE DIRECTIONS:***

Read one of the following books (most are available **for free** online) and write an essay of 400-500 words in which you re-tell the main events in the book. Be sure to describe the main characters, and be certain to tell the plot line clearly. If the book is non-fiction, tell what the book is about and describe the author's purpose. Again, use MLA rules and TYPE EACH ESSAY, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

CHOICES:

*I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS* MAYA ANGELOU

*GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN* JAMES BALDWIN

*FAHRENHEIT 451* RAY BRADBURY

*FROM A WRITER'S NOTEBOOK* VAN WYCK BROOKS

*BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE* DEE BROWN

*A BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER* JOAN DIDION

*THE LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS* FREDERICK DOUGLASS

*AN UNFINISHED WOMAN* LILLIAN HELLMAN. (CONTINUED>>>)

*YEARS OF MY YOUTH*  WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS **PAGE 3**

*THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*  ZORA NEALE HURSTON

*THE STORY OF MY LIFE* HELEN KELLER

*THE WAY TO RAINY MOUNTAIN* N. SCOTT MOMADAY

*THE CANNIBAL GALAXY* CYNTHIA OZICK

*FAST FOOD NATION* ERIC SCHLOSSER

*BLACK BOY*  RICHARD WRIGHT

*THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X* MALCOLM X