

5 books to enjoy -- all of these books may be purchased or ordered from your favorite local bookstore. Be sure to allow two to four weeks for delivery if you must order any of the titles. The books should be available in libraries as well:

Mythology -- Edith Hamilton (nonfiction) Reading Edith Hamilton's **Mythology** and having some Bible background will be invaluable sources for our discussions throughout the year.

Catch-22-- Joseph Heller

A Prayer for Owen Meaney -- John Irving

Any book of poetry (or anthology or a collection by a single poet). Choose a few favorite poems to share with the class in the fall from this list of poets:

Akhmatova, Ai, Alegría, Amichai, Ashbery, Atwood, Auden, Basho, Baudelaire, Behn, Bishop, Blake, Bly, Boland, Braithwaite, Brodsky, Brooks, Browning, Celan, Cisneros, Clifton, Collins, Corso, Creeley, Cummings, Curbelo, Dickey, Dickinson, Dobyns, Donne, Doty, Dove, Eberhart, Eliot, Erdrich, Espada, Ferlinghetti, Forché, Frost, Ginsberg, Giovanni, Gioia, Gluck, Joy, Graham, Haskins, Hass, Heaney, Ignatow, Jerome, Justice, Kabir, Keats, Kenyon, Kinnell, Kinsella, Koch, Kumin, Kunitz, Lawrence, Lee, Lehman, Levertov, Levine, Lorca, Lowell, Martinez, Meinke, Merwin, Millay, Milosz, Mitchell, Neruda, Nye, Olds, Oliver, Paz, Piercy, Plath, Rich, Rilke, Rimbaud, Roethke, Rossetti, Rukeyser, Rumi, Samaras, Sappho, Sartre, Sexton, Shakespeare, Simic, Snyder, Stafford, Stevens, Strand, Swenson, Szymorska, Tennyson, Thomas, Tranströmer, Tsvetayeva, Updike, Whitman, Whyte, Wilbur, Wordsworth, Wright, Yeats, Yevtushenko, Zamora . . .

As soon as we begin school this fall, you will also sign up to present a **10-minute oral reading and personal response** to the poetry you have chosen for intensive reading.

Writing assignment:

The two assigned novels deal with the experience of disorder, deformity, disappointment, or some disruption. After reading the two novels, write an essay in which you describe how these writers' treatments of the characters and their conflicts contribute to the themes of their works. This single, unified essay should be four typed pages with about half the words applied to each title. Be sure to structure your essay according to standard essay format: a thesis statement at the end of your introductory paragraph, **specific** supporting details from each text in your body paragraphs (including relevant quotations from the works), and a concluding paragraph beginning with an intensified thesis statement. Use appropriate transitional devices to ensure coherence. Use the quotations guide on the back for including quotations in your essay.

Because you will need quotations, mark significant sections of each work as you read. The tone of your paper should be persuasive, so be sure to support your thesis (**WITHOUT** using first person -- ~~I think, I feel, I believe, in my opinion, or in this writer's opinion~~). Should you use secondary sources, document using MLA style.

DOUBLE-SPACE ALL TYPED WORK--12-point font, Times New Roman or equivalent, one-inch margins on all four sides. NO COVER SHEETS or PLASTIC FOLDERS, PLEASE!

In addition to the essay, compile a list of **twenty-five new-to-you vocabulary** words and their definitions from the three or four works.

This assignment is **due the first day of school** in the fall.

Essays and vocabulary will not be accepted after the first day of school in August, 2014. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE ONLINE or OTHER SOURCES. Above all, read thoughtfully and enjoy.