

American Literature Summer Reading Assignment

St. Bernard High School is committed to its belief in the importance of reading in the intellectual development of the student. For this reason, we supplement the regular English curricula with required summer reading. All students must have the following assignment completed for the first day of school. Assignments are to be submitted to your English teacher for grading. This will be an important part of your first semester's grade. We hope that you will enjoy and be challenged by the books you read. Your English teacher looks forward to reading your essay and children's book.

You must read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck **AND** *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt.

Children's Book for *Black Elk Speaks*

Students must create a children's book for the novel explaining the life of the Sioux peoples. The book must meet the following requirements:

- A cover page with a proper MLA heading.
- Each page will have 3-4 sentences explaining the life of the Sioux in language that can be understood by a child. Spelling and grammar count.
- Each page must have an illustration to accompany the writing.
- The concept of what it means to be Native American must be addressed at some point in your book.

Essays for *The Grapes of Wrath*

Students must write an essay for each book on **three** of the following elements: Plot, Theme, Setting, Conflict, Symbolism, or Character Portrayal. In your essay mention the three elements in the first paragraph and develop those ideas in the body paragraphs. The essays must also meet the following requirements:

- A traditional five paragraph essay.
- A cover page with a proper MLA heading.
- Essays must be word processed and double spaced.
- MLA works cited.

Each of the above assignment is worth 100 points a piece.

Additionally, be prepared for a test on each book during the first two weeks of classes. Students must complete the summer assignments in order to take the tests.