

Honors Program Summer Reading Assignment

Students taking **Dual Enrollment English 121** should read **both novels** of the paired text selections below, complete the journal assignment, and come to school next year prepared to write a rhetorical essay on topics of the instructor's choosing. You will be able to use the novels and your journal notes to complete the in-class assignment.

Novel Pair Choice 1- Read and journal about both of these novels.

- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
This novel tells the story of a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country, and of what it means to be black in America.

Novel Pair Choice 2 – Read and Journal about both of these novels.

- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. After Mr. Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine's brother Hindley, and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves Wuthering Heights, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man. He proceeds to exact a terrible revenge for his former miseries.
- *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy
The stonemason Jude Fawley is a dreamer; his is a tragedy of unfulfilled aims. With his tantalizing cousin Sue Bridehead, the last and most extraordinary of Hardy's heroines, Jude takes on the world and discovers, tragically, its brutal indifference.

Journal Assignment

1. Journal **while** you read. It may be easiest to devote a notebook to the text so that you are not stapling together pages of notes to turn in. Your journals should include information regarding characters, plot, imagery, author choice, and author purpose.
 - a. Journals entries should not outline or summarize plot, but instead should show an analysis of the text.
 - b. Journal entries should cover no more than three chapters in an entry.
2. Make a list of **five** quotes critical to the text. Provide the page number(s) for each passage. In at least one paragraph (5-7 sentences) explain the significance of the quote. Do not simply paraphrase the quote, but provide an insightful explanation as to why the quote is significant to the text. In this section, you should focus on specific word choice not simply plot pushers.
3. Make connections! List on a separate page at least **five** ways your chosen novel pairing connects to each other and explain why you chose those connections as the most important.