



## **English III Honors: American Literature Summer Reading Assignment**

Welcome to English III! This summer, you are assigned three books to begin this course's study of American Literature. These works will begin our exploration of the course's central questions about the existence of the American Dream, perspectives on the American experience, and possible recurring American ideals and values. You will also complete a written assignment to continue to build the analytical and writing skills that you have learned and will continue to develop throughout the school year. The required summer reading books are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during the reading process. **All written assignments are due the first full day of school.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Siwik at [margarita.siwik@saintjosephprep.org](mailto:margarita.siwik@saintjosephprep.org).

### **Required Reading:**

- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller (Penguin Books, ISBN 9780140481341)
- *Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway (Gardners Books, ISBN 9780099910107)
- *Fences* by August Wilson (Plume, ISBN 9780452264014)

### **Reading Tasks:**

1. Please **annotate as you read** each work. This is intended to encourage active reading in which you are engaged in the material and noting important developments or literary elements as you go.
2. After reading *Fences* and *Death of a Salesman*, please **write a 2-page essay** in which you respond to the prompt below:

***The theme of the American Dream is present in both of these plays. How is the American Dream presented in each text? In either book, is the American Dream achievable for the main characters? Why or why not? What does this suggest about the accessibility of the American Dream? Use detailed evidence from each text to support your claim.***

- Your essay should be argument driven, engage in analysis, and demonstrate a careful consideration of the text.
  - You should write in MLA format, including the proper header, font, margins, etc.
  - You will need to include textual evidence (quotations) with proper parenthetical citations to support your ideas in each body paragraph
3. After reading *A Farewell to Arms*, **complete the attached post-reading assignment.**

## ***A Farewell to Arms* - Post-Reading**

**Directions:** After you finish reading *A Farewell to Arms*, answer the following questions. Your responses should be insight driven, engage in analysis, and demonstrate a careful consideration of the text. **Please type your answers to each question on a google document.** You will be asked to submit this google document on the first day of classes.

1. During Lt. Frederic Henry's early visits with Catherine Barkley, Catherine says as they touch each other and speak of love, "This is a rotten game we play, isn't it"? (p. 31). What is the significance of this? How should one characterize Frederic's early "love" for Catherine? What does the initial stage of their relationship reveal about the effect of the war upon their lives?
2. The "Lost Generation" reached adulthood during or shortly after World War I. Disillusioned by the horrors of war, they experienced the "death of all ideals" or a loss of all traditional values that informed past generations. What are some of the ideals that are "killed off" in novel? Identify at least one and be sure to provide textual evidence and discussion of how this is achieved.
3. Is *A Farewell to Arms* a "great romance" and love story? Or is it a "a study in doom," as it has sometimes been called? What questions about God and faith are raised in the final chapter? What do you believe Frederic has learned, or perhaps become resigned to, about love and war by the end of the novel?