CP English III (Grade 11)

Questions? Email Mrs. Hennessy

Contact: chennessy@berkscatholic.org

The 11th grade curriculum features a study of American Literature.

Reading Assignment #1: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING PHENOMENON
For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Assignment: Read Wh*ere the Crawdad Sings* and be prepared for a 50-point test on its plot, characters, setting, etc. upon your return to school. As you read, take notes, keep a character log, write questions, draw conclusions... draw pictures! Do what you must to actively engage with the text, and you will understand the story much better.

Reading Assignment #2: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. This is the unforgettable story of how Christopher Johnson McCandless came to die.

Though this is not a difficult book, the timeline moves back and forth and can confuse some readers. If you feel unsure of what is happening, be sure to read the original article that Jon Krakauer wrote for *Outside* magazine. The response to Krakauer's article is what prompted the book, *Into the Wild*. This straightforward article only focuses on the story of Chris McCandless, not all the other adventure stories that are sprinkled throughout the book. Here's a link to the article:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd0845d9795d6755add1535/t/600d7fd06953722c2362d34b/1611497424436/Death+of+an+Innocent.pdf

Assignment: Be prepared to write an in-class, five paragraph argumentative essay on one aspect of Chris McCandless's story. Multiple topics and prompts will be provided for you during the first week of school.

*These books are available at local libraries, bookstores, and online at websites such as thriftbooks.com, abebooks.com, bookshop.org, and many others.