

Honors English 11
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment
Ms. Fine

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Remind: www.remind.com/join/93kggff

Required reading:

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

- Note: You only need to read part of “The Custom House” introduction—from “The object that most drew my attention...” (around page 30) to “he need never try to write romances.” Proceed to read the entire novel from chapter one.

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Essay assignment

- Your essay should be a minimum of two pages long (12 point font, double spaced with standard margins of 1.25” and 1”) but no more than three pages. Develop your own thesis and support it through a standard essay format.
- If you happen to use a secondary source, be sure to give credit to the source. (**This is not required or suggested**).
- You will be graded on content and mechanics.
- Avoid working in groups or using Cliff’s or SparkNotes. One of the goals of this course is to give you the skills you need to interpret literary works **on your own**.
- Students must arrive on the opening day of school with their composition; twenty-five percent will be deducted from your grade for one day late and ten percent additional for each day thereafter (fifteen percent over weekends).
- Your paper must be turned in to turnitin.com:

Class name: Honors 11 2021-2022

Class ID: **29459854**

Password/Enrollment Key: Honors

- Late papers will immediately be docked 25% and then 10% for each day following. An on-time paper is a hard copy submitted to me during class and a copy submitted to www.turnitin.com by 8:00 AM on the first day of school.

See the next page for your essay prompt and directions.

Below you will find a list of themes. Choose one and develop it into a well thought out essay with textual evidence in which you analyze the presence and importance of the theme in **both** *The Scarlet Letter* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Again, one essay analyzing both novels.

Themes:

- Hester and Janie's relationship to men/ marriage
- Hester and Janie's values when it comes to love/romance
- Hester and Janie's methods of survival/growth in a hostile/male dominated society
- the ways in which Hester and Janie perceives themselves as an individual/woman as opposed to the way that society and their respective communities
- the differences in their lives based on the fact that Hester has a child, Janie does not
- the fact that Hester is an outcast and almost completely autonomous, while Janie is (throughout much of the book) part of a community but economically dependent on a man
- Hester and Janie's homes/living arrangements

Be sure to annotate your text-- that means notes, not just highlighting or underlining. I'll be checking them the first couple of days of school. **If** you are using an electronic copy of the books or library copies, I suggest you use sticky notes or keep a dialectical journal.