

Humanities 11/12
Mrs. Shannon
American Literature

Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 11th and 12th Graders,

Congratulations on finishing your exams! This summer, you will be reading Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind. It is an American classic and a fascinating study of the human condition. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do.

This novel spans the years 1861-1871 and focuses on the havoc and transformation caused by the Civil War. It is famous for its uniquely southern perspective, which will lead to some interesting class discussions when we return in the fall. Gone with the Wind was Mitchell's only novel and it was wildly popular in its time. It remains one of the best-selling books of all time.

Your assignment for the summer is to read the book and annotate it in detail. Approximately one week after school starts you will have a test on the text on which you will be asked to answer questions about the following topics:

- The changing face of the South
- The importance of land to one's life and identity
- Overcoming adversity/dealing with suffering
- Manhood
- Scarlett's transformation throughout the novel

Don't simply underline passages without commenting on them on the page. Rather, it would be a good idea to consider some of the following strategies:

- Color code your annotations for each topic.
- Write notes in the margins related to each topic.
- Write questions in the margins related to each topic.
- Make a list of important passages for each topic in the cover of your book.
- Circle a character's name when he or she is introduced.
- Box new words and write their definitions in the margins.
- Write down your personal reaction to the events and characters as you read.
- Write down any parallels to other texts that cross your mind as you read.

Happy summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shannon