

Summer Reading Journal

English 12

Mr. Travis

Summer 2008

INTRODUCTION

Wow! You finally made it! Seniors at last! Save the senioritis, though; there's plenty of work to do before graduation. This summer you will be expected to read the novel *Cry, the Beloved Country* (ISBN 0-684-81894-9). It's a very moving story and very contemporary. To further enhance your reading experience, you will be completing two summer reading essays. They will be due during the first week of school and require more than a few hours to complete. I recommend that you begin work on the essays as soon as you finish the novel, so your ideas will be fresh; do not wait until the last few days.

You will also read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (ISBN 0-06-000942-X), a book that will ease the pressure of classroom discussions and exams if read carefully and applied to all the works we discuss this year. Please highlight important information as you read.

ESSAY

THE NOVEL:

Some of the themes developed in *Cry, The Beloved Country* are

- Reconciliation (restored relationships, nations) and hope
- Christian values and kindness
- Fear
- Urban society vs. rural society
- The power of actions, either symbolically or in actuality

Pick two of these themes and write a 2 page (about 700 words) analysis for each. Also, find a critical source from the Gale Research Group and incorporate it into your analyses (you may need to use one for each analysis). Using the Brook Hill website, 1) click on *Academics* on the left; 2) on the new page, click on *middle/upper school home page*; 3) on the new page click on *Curriculum*; 4) on the new page click on *Gale Research Link*. Our password is "lonestar." Search for at least one scholarly review or critical essay over *The Things They Carried*. Print it (them) out to turn in with your analyses. Be sure to cite these appropriately in your paper and on your works cited page.

FORMAT

Use standard MLA format and don't forget a works cited page. See writing guide if you need help or go to The Owl at Purdue (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) for help.