

**Matanzas High School Summer Reading 2009**  
**Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition**

For summer reading, students in AP English Literature & Composition should read *Obasan*, by Joy Kogawa, and *All the Pretty Horses*, by Cormac McCarthy, and then respond in writing to this essay prompt:

**A prevalent topic in literature is the search for identity. Authors use characters and their experiences to explore this theme. In a well organized essay, describe the main character(s) in each of the above novels. Then, analyze the experiences that make up their search for identity. Use examples and quotations from the text to support your analysis.**

The essay is due in class on September 18, 2009. On that same day in class, there will be an objective test on the novels. Although students will be turning in a print copy of the essay, they will also need to upload the essay to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), a plagiarism detection site utilized by Matanzas High School faculty. I will provide instructions for logging in and utilizing this site during the first week or two of class.

The essay must be word processed in 10 or 12 point font with Word default margins (generally 1.5 spaces and 1 inch margins) and paginated. Students should create a “header” at the top of the page, which includes the student name, the title, of the assignment and the date. In order to answer the question fully, the suggested length of the essay is approximately 1000 words. I’ll evaluate the essay using the rubric on the reverse side of this sheet.

A personal word to students: Both of these novels have appeared on the AP Literature exam, as possible selections for free response question three. *Obasan* is the story of a Canadian-Japanese woman and her family during World War II. If you read *Farewell to Manzanar*, this story may sound somewhat familiar; however, it is a much more adult novel than the above. *All the Pretty Horses* has been made into a movie (PG-13) – a western, which we will view in class *after* the essays are handed in. You will write to compare/contrast the book and the movie then, so I encourage you to read the book this summer and not just rely on the movie. Supposedly, Billy Bob Thornton, who directed the movie version, had to cut out two hours of the film, which left him feeling as if the novel were not well represented! Feel free to do some background research on line; use whatever materials you like to enhance your understanding, but READ the books yourself. Using book notes in place of reading is cheating – cheating both yourself and your education. Although reading may not be the first item on your list of fun summer activities, like anything, we only improve when we train ourselves in that area. So the more you read, the easier it gets; the more you enjoy it and the better insight you have into the writing! ☺

In addition, we will be creating the first of our major works data charts from these summer reading books....more about that in August....so read!

**Questions?**

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