

Welcome to American Literature and our summer reading program! As you while away the lazy summer days, a good read is a constant, interesting companion, in rain or shine. Being able to read and comprehend is one of the most valuable skills you can attain; some of you will be using those skills one day to entertain us with books you yourself have written. In the meantime, make new friends this summer; read good books!

Book 1:

This summer, your readings will take you back in time to early America. *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather is set in the late 1800s Nebraska. Things to know about Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* You will discern two stories in this novel: that of Alexandra and Carl, and that of Emil and Marie. The book is in five parts, with different numbers of chapters in each part. After reading the novel complete the following and bring it the first full day of class.

1. In each part, look for references to ducks and record what you find. Include page numbers. Write a paragraph telling what the author uses them to mean.
2. Identify three themes in the novel; explain and illustrate each. (You can use original photography, original art or classical artwork.) Record two important quotes that in some way illustrate each theme. Each theme should be a separate sheet/piece of art.

Book 2:

The *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is an inspiring and chilling first-person account of life as a slave in America is one you will never forget. Choose **one** of the following to create after you have read *Narrative*, and bring your work to our first full class.

1. You have a friend or relative who wants to drop out of school. Create a video "collage" with five media clips* that address the issue of education. Include a typed paper with a paragraph each explaining how each is relevant to today's teen and how it lines up with God's word. Be sure each clip is appropriate and cite it correctly.
* These must be appropriate – PG rating.
2. Make an illustrated timeline showing events of the story, and draw a map showing the location(s) where the story took place. Drawings should be on unlined paper, no smaller than 9 x 12". Attention to detail is important; make it thorough.
3. Create a mini-comic book (graphic journal) relating the most memorable chapter of the book. 8-10 pages – about 4-6 captions for each page.

Note: MLA format for all typed work should have 1" margins, be double-spaced. Include your name, Mrs. Retter, English III, and the date at the upper left margin on the first page only. I will be available by email: traciretter@ccslions.org