

# 11 Humanities/American Civilization Summer Assignment

In 11 Humanities, we expect that when you read you have a pen or pencil in hand and that you have intellectual and emotional conversations with the text. That is, you must be active readers!!

With that goal in mind, for your 11 Humanities Summer assignment you will read, *with pen in hand*, one book. The book must have been written by an American author, and the story must indicate something about American culture from either the past or the present.

Track your responses to the text in a reader-response journal (use a **composition book** for this). As you read, write your reactions to the characters, narrator, point-of-view, and plot points. *Additionally, pay specific attention to your reactions to the how the story illustrates American culture.*

While there is no specific length requirement for your journals, *considerable and insightful* reflection should be evident. **Do not summarize what you are reading, respond to it! Summarization is not interaction.**

These reader-response journals will become an important resource during the first few weeks of class; they will be essential tools for both class discussions and writing assignments. In addition, the reader response will count for 100 points for your 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade. Your responses should be thoughtfully completed and demonstrate a thorough and active reading of the texts.

Following is a SUGGESTED list of books. You may read something not on this list, however you must ensure that whatever you read was created by an AMERICAN author.

## Non-Fiction Texts

*Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich

*The Boy Who Fell From the Sky* by Ken Dornstein

*Blue Highways* by William Least Heat-Moon

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Persig

*The Pirate Coast* by Richard Zacks

*Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson

*In Pharaoh's Army* by Tobias Wolff

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Attallah Shabazz

*Mockingbird* by Charles Shields

*Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

*An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard

*American Chica* by Maria Arana

## Fiction Texts

*The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

*The Beet Queen* by Louise Erdrich

*Heyday* by Kurt Anderson

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

*Pigs in Heaven* by Barbara Kingsolver

*The Known World* by Edward P. Jones

*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko

*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson

*Catch 22* by Joseph Heller