

## A.P. English Literature: Summer Reading 2018

**You will be reading two works.** Each novel covers the dominant 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century genres: stark realism, modernism, magical realism, mystery. Although the settings span epochs, you will revisit the regrettably timeless and universal themes of injustice in all its guises: gender, as well as racial, cultural and economic. Both of these titles may be found at local libraries, bookstores, as well as Amazon.com and other sites.

**You will be tested on these two works** most likely during the second week of school.

**You will be experiencing the words of Jesmyn Ward**, author of *Sing Unburied Sing* on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 15th at Kleinhans Music Hall. Attendance is mandatory. Nardin has generously defrayed your cost to \$5.00.

### Titles

1. **Ng, Celeste. *Everything I Never Told You*.** This debut novel from an award winning author has been selected for you for its compelling storyline, complex characters, and themes. As described on Amazon.com, Ng's novel is "a profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing... both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another."
2. **Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing Unburied Sing*.** This novel is a National Book Award winner and will be the focus of Ward's discussion on November 15th. Although the novel covers several genres, the most notable is a unique style coined "magical realism," which fuses harsh reality with fantastical "magical" events. "An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* examines the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power – and limitations – of family bonds" (Amazon.com).

### Evidence of Learning

1. **Vocabulary:** Choose 10 - 15 vocabulary words from both Ng's and Ward's novels. Handwrite each word on an index card. On the back of the card, write the definition of the word, the word in context as it's used in the novel, and an explanation of why the author has chosen that particular word: the value of that word.
2. **Written Tasks:** All writing should be your original work. We recommend that you begin these tasks shortly after completing your reading while the text is fresh.
  - a. **Discussion Questions:** Compose two specific discussion questions for each novel: *Everything I Never Told You* and *Sing Unburied Sing*. Questions should address confusion, meaning or interpretation, writer's style, diction choices, syntax . . .
  - b. **Essay:** Using either novel, compose an original response based on the following prompt.

**Prompt:** Choose a novel that depicts a conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze: **1)** the sources of the conflict and **2)** explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid plot summary.

#### Be Sure to:

- ~ Type and double space your essay (maximum 1000 words).
- ~ Circle the topic words in the essay prompt. Use the topic words in your essay (**1** and **2**)

**Due Date:** Discussion questions and your printed essay are due on the **first day of class**.

**Avoid Plagiarism:** It is anathema. It is stealing. Its use may jeopardize your placement in the course.