

Mr. McCarthy
Mrs. Babcock

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2021

As preparation for a year of intensive literary study, over the summer you will be reading *There There*, by Tommy Orange, a contemporary Native American author. You must get your own copy of the novel; the school will not provide them. You are to read the novel as though you were going to write an essay on it when you return to school. If you want to talk to a classmate who is reading the book or look items up in a dictionary or encyclopedia, that is OK, but no *Spark Notes*, *Cliffs Notes*, or **anything that offers interpretations of the text (this includes *Wikipedia*)**. We suggest you read the book twice; you do not want to put this off until late summer.

As you read, you should mark, note, or highlight passages that deal with character development, key conflicts, symbolism, and theme(s). Consider that this is both a Native American novel and a contemporary American novel. Are these two ideas separable? Is it useful to try to separate them? If so, how can the separation create a better sense of the book's possibilities? If they are inseparable, where are the contact points or intertwinements, and how do these connections yield a richer possibility of meaning(s)? Also, many of the sections have epigraphs (quotations placed at the beginning which suggest avenues of interpretation); how do these epigraphs shape or focus individual or intertwined themes? Keep these things in mind as we return to school to discuss the book.

Remember that a novel cannot be fully understood until the reading is complete, so be prepared to revise your views as you read and after you have completed the novel. Whether you read the book and re-read it just before school starts is up to you, but whatever you do, you need to have it read and have your notes reviewed by the first week of school.

By the way, if you did not have a chance to study them last year, we highly recommend you read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and *Salvage the Bones*, by Jesmyn Ward. All are accessible, thought-provoking, and awesome—and versatile when it comes to the open question on the AP Literature exam (which you will learn much more about next year).

If you have questions, send them along via e-mail, preferably to Mrs. Babcock (jbabcock@johnbapst.org) or Mr. McCarthy (mmccarthy@johnbapst.org).