

Advanced Placement Junior English Assignment for Summer 2009

E-mail address: W.Kinsey@cms.k12.nc.us

Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

Dear Student,

I have selected *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren as your summer reading and writing assignment. The book is a classic work of fiction based on the life and career of Louisiana's legendary, larger-than-life Huey Long (1893-1935). Warren's novel has much to say about politics and power struggles—ideas and ideals, history and hierarchy, corruption and change—in modern America. Although the novel is long and complex, most readers find the pulsating rhythm of Warren's style mesmerizing. Read the first page aloud with expression, and you'll see what I mean. In fact, due to the style, **the book has to be read in large blocks**, not piecemeal; you need to become totally absorbed in the world of Jack Burden, Willie Stark (the Boss), Sadie Burke, Tiny Duffy, Judge Irwin, Anne Stanton and Sugar-Boy. So sink in and buckle-up. You're in for one roller coaster of a literary ride. **You can purchase the book from Borders (704-596-4382) at North Lake Mall. It will be available on June 1, 2009, for \$16.09.**

Items in the Packet:

- Guidelines for Writing a Paper (Pink)
- Chapter Questions (Green)
- Transitional Words and Phrases (Yellow)
- Glossary of Terms (Blue)

Guidelines for Writing a Paper:

Study carefully the handout for writing a paper; it will be your blueprint for writing successfully. Your paper needs to be 3 to 4 pages, double-spaced throughout, using #12, Times New Roman. Place your name in the upper right corner; you do not have to type a title page. You are to use only the novel (primary source). I do not want you consulting secondary sources (criticisms written about the novel). If you have an urge to do this, dispel the thought immediately because you will receive a **zero** for a grade. Trust your own intelligence and instincts. Having an open and confident attitude toward writing is the first huge step in becoming an effective writer.

All the King's Men is an unusual novel in that it has two dynamic characters, that is, characters whose personalities undergo significant changes as the events of the narrative unfold. These two characters are Willie Stark and Jack Burden. The fact that both men develop throughout the novel has led to a debate among the critics as to which one is the more important character; therefore, I have selected this debate as the foundation for your thesis. You are to select either Willie Stark or Jack Burden as the most significant character in the novel. Of course, your thesis (thesis statement) has to state why you embrace this position. Include in your analysis the changes the character experiences—his actions, his perspectives on life, his effect on those around him. How

does the character reflect the cultures of the old and new South? **Follow the format laid out in the handout, “Guidelines for Writing a Paper.”** Remember, you are not just reading a novel, you are diligently studying a novel. If you don’t understand a passage, reread the passage until you are confident that you know what is going on. You have purchased the book. Feel free to write in the margins, underline and highlight. Perhaps using one color of highlighter for Willie and another for Jack would be helpful. Also, use posit notes, note cards or a composition book to write pertinent information.

Chapter Questions:

On notebook paper answer each question. You don’t have to re-write the question, just write the chapter and number. If your penmanship is illegible, please type your answers. Each question needs to be fully and adequately answered.

Transitional Words and Phrases:

It is very important that you use transitions throughout your paper. They will give your paper coherence and unity, and they are important in developing your style.

Glossary of Terms:

These terms are provided to aid in your comprehension of the novel. The novel contains colloquialisms and language used during that time period.

Additional Assignment:

You need to familiarize yourself with Huey Long and make a connection between Willie Stark and Huey Long. Please submit a one-page report on Huey Long. Place your name in the upper right corner and double space using Times New Roman #12.

Assignments due the first day of class:

- 1. The thesis paper (3-4 pages)**
- 2. The report on Huey Long (1 page)**
- 3. Chapter Questions**