



Out of the Starting Gate

With AP Literature

2010 Summer Reading

DeSales High School
Department of English

Dear Colt Parent,

Now that summer is beginning, we want to remind you and your son to include summer reading books into your vacation activities. Because summer reading is an integral part of the English curriculum, the English department has gone to great lengths to select the following books for next year's AP seniors. Your son will be given an assessment over his summer reading on the second day of classes, and that assessment grade will be counted on his first report card.

These books will be available at local bookstores, at the public library, (call for availability), or online at Amazon.com. **Please encourage your son to read-- it is an important and mandatory part of his education!**

All AP students need to read BOTH these novels.

Native Son by Richard Wright

This entire book is about cruel fates. Broken up into three parts, Wright's "Native Son" tells the story of Bigger Thomas, an angry and foolish young black man from 1940's Chicago. He is powerfully built but weak-minded because he didn't have a proper education. He had big dreams of becoming an aviator but lack of opportunity forced him to live in a rat-infested room with his mother and two siblings. He just wanted to be left alone but his suffocating world would soon torture him with relentless attention. He was one of many young black men like this during the age of evil prejudice, withheld freedoms and spirit-breaking segregation.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

"*The Sun Also Rises* is Hemingway's masterpiece--one of them, anyway--and no matter how many times you've read it or how you feel about the manners and morals of the characters, you won't be able to resist its spell. This is a classic that really does live up to its reputation." --David Laskin