2019-2020

**AP English Literature and Composition**

**Summer Assignment**

Everyone reads:

* ***Reservation Blues*** by Sherman Alexie
  + This American Book Award-winning novel follows the story of the rise and fall of a rock and blues band of Spokane Indians from the Spokane Reservation in Washington State. Alexie's unique combination of humor and poignancy in his writing brings forth unforgettable characters that will have you laughing one minute and crying the next!
* ***The Power*** by Naomi Alderman
  + The Bailey’s Women’s Prize for Fiction-winning novel takes readers to an alternate reality where all over the world women and girls are discovering they have the power. With a flick of the fingers they can inflict terrible pain, and even death. And with this small twist of nature, everything changes dramatically. Alderman’s writing is fast-paced, thrilling, and even funny, and is one of former President Obama’s favorite reads of 2017
* This summer you will keep a “reading journal” as you read these novels. Our focus will be on the theme of ***“journeys forward” – physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional, etc.***
* For each of the two novels, you should have a minimum of 8 journal entries, with each entry no shorter than two paragraphs (6-8 sentences).
* As you are writing, consider the following:
  + What journeys are present in this novel?
  + How do the characters change and develop as a consequence of their journey? Is the change positive or negative?
  + What do the different characters represent?
  + What qualities do you see in a character that either support or hinder her/him on her/his journey?
  + In what ways do you relate to the character’s journey?
  + What connections can you make between the journey you are reading about currently and the journeys from novels you have previously read?
  + What are the challenges and trials along the way? Do you find these challenges realistic? Why?
  + What is it about the journey that either draws you in or repels you?
  + What does the journey portrayed in the novel say about the human condition?
* *Ultimately, your journal entries should be a reflection of how you viewed the journey that takes place in the novel. The questions above are a guideline only.*

Your journals will be due the first day of school. You must submit them typed and printed.