

## English 11cc Summer Reading Assignment NEW

### *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

It should be widely available through amazon, Barnes and Noble and various bookstores, both online and brick and mortar. You may use a library version of the book, or an e-version, but ***please be sure you have it with you for the first week or so of school.***

One of the skills we focus on in English 11cc is close reading. With that in mind, I'd like you to read carefully, pencil in hand, and work on annotating passages in the book. (If you use a library version, you'll have to take notes instead of annotating).

Things to mark in your annotations:

- Passages that strike you as beautiful/interesting/puzzling/inspiring (could be because of the writing or because of how they relate to the story -- that's up to you)
- Characters and their motivation
- Details of setting
- Figurative language that strikes you
- Moments of turning point(s) in the plot
- Anything that strikes you as revelatory or inspires an epiphany

Keep in mind the following questions as you read and annotate/take notes:

- What does this book suggest about the nature of America?
- How does this book and this story prepare us for studying American literature?
- What, if anything, does this book suggest about the nature of the American Dream? (NOTE: see my google site and links under "The American Dream" for more information to familiarize yourself with it).

Finally, keep track of any vocabulary words that strike you as important. You can circle these as you come to them and/or copy them into your notebook. Don't feel as though you *have* to come up with words -- only do this if you come across any.

In a 9 x 11 notebook (that will become your notebook for class), please do the following:

1. Copy down 5 of the passages that you've annotated. Include the page number. Then, write a short paragraph about why this particular passage struck you. What did it make you think? Wonder about? Why did you choose that particular passage? Try this: Divide the notebook page in half. On the left, copy the passages. On the right, your reactions and thoughts. Again, this will be much easier if you annotate while you read instead of going back and looking again for passages that interest you.  
**NOTE: I will be checking these on the 1st day of school.**
2. Jot down notes that answer the questions above. These will be our starting points for the book discussion in class.

I'm looking forward to working with you all! Email me with any questions -- [psmith@args.us](mailto:psmith@args.us)

