

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Reading

2022-2023

Students will read the following works:

- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, by Frederick Douglass
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave

Objectives:

- The student will become familiar with an autobiographical American work.
- The student will analyze an autobiographical work to understand how the author uses specific strategies to accomplish a purpose.

Assignment:

- Douglass' autobiography was written before slavery was fully abolished in the United States, but he was an active, out-spoken, and well-known abolitionist. In an essay, discuss in what ways his narrative can be read as an argument against slavery. What strategy (or strategies) does Douglass use to make a case against slavery with his own life story? How might his story have been received in its day? Explain with specific examples from the text. Your responses should be 2-3 pages in MLA format.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Objectives:

- The student will read a piece of minority American literature.
- The student will compare/contrast the representation of African American identity presented in Hurston's work and in Douglass' work.

Assignment:

- Like Douglass' autobiography, Hurston's novel is (in part) a representation of the African American sense of identity at the time of its publication. In an essay, characterize the African American identity communicated in each work and compare/contrast the two. For areas of contrast, discuss what may cause the differences (i.e. time period and social context, male/female authorship, fiction vs. non-fiction). Discuss, if you are able, the strategies each author uses to build this characterization (in other words, what methods does the author use to describe the African American community?). Your response should be 2-3 pages in MLA format.

Assignments should be e-mailed directly to the instructor at pdhampton@gcagators.org no later than midnight, August 28, 2022. Late credit will not be given for late submissions.