

## Grab a Good Book...

Whether you spend your summer hanging out with friends in Santiago, relaxing at the beach, or visiting family, grab a good book to prepare you for American Literature! When you return to school in the fall, your English teacher will incorporate your summer reading into your class through various methods that may include an essay, a presentation, a creative project and/or a test.

This fall the Sophomore English course will be a survey of American literature. The thematic focus of the course is *What do I stand for?* We will analyze character development and how the decisions multifarious characters make throughout each book exemplifies the values they have chosen.

When you read your novel, do so very carefully. You should take notes either in your book (underlining key lines or writing notes in the margin that help you to process the work) or in a composition notebook. Looking for patterns (repeated words, images, references) may be helpful, and you should be sure to mark them. Also, writing chapter-by-chapter plot notes (either in the book at the end of each chapter or in a composition notebook) will enable you to recall the details of each story when you begin English class. (If you are looking for a length guideline, I would recommend half to one full page per chapter, depending on the length of your book.) Your notes should include observations related to plot, characters, symbols, theme, imagery, tone, and any and all other literary devices you note as you read.

Your reading selections include:

*Little Women*—Louisa May Alcott

*The Scarlet Letter*\*—Nathaniel Hawthorne

*The Pearl*—John Steinbeck

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*—Mark Twain

*A Farewell to Arms*—Ernest Hemingway

\*Ms. Brooker may have copies to lend out for the summer. Please check with her if you are interested in borrowing this book!

If you have any question please feel free to contact Mr. Boehning at [cboehning@scs.edu.do](mailto:cboehning@scs.edu.do).

Enjoy the challenge and the beauty of these classics!  
Happy reading,  
Mr. Boehning