

Required Summer Reading, Honors Sophomore English, Mr. Selfridge 2008-2009 School Year

The works of fiction listed below are within the scope of the sophomore English curriculum, which has as its focus American literature. Students enrolled in Sophomore Honors English first or second semester are *required* to read and think about two works—the two novels, or one of the novels and one collection of short stories--from the list below before school begins in the fall. As the recollections of summer reading often disperse with the October leaves, students are encouraged to make some notes or to keep a journal of responses to each reading session; early into the semester they will be asked for detailed analysis of their selected works in both writing and in class discussions, and such notes will be extremely useful in this regard.

Novels:

- *Sula*, Toni Morrison
- *White Noise*, Don DeLillo

Short Story Collections:

- *Going to Meet the Man*, James Baldwin
- *A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories*, Flannery O'Connor
- *The Magic of Blood*, Dagoberto Gilb

Summer writing is not required, but it is recommended. My hope is that through summer reading and writing you will arrive at essential ideas about the literature and that during the semester you will expand those ideas into a paper that is substantive, analytic, and ultimately persuasive. Have a great summer!