

RMHS Grade 10 Summer Reading
2010

Summer Reading for Honors American Literature

The Requirement: Students should read the three books listed below.

The Books: *Black Boy (Part I)* by Richard Wright
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
My Antonia by Willa Cather

Assessment: In September, students will be tested on their comprehension of these texts. Also, these titles will be the focus of the school year's first unit of study.

Guiding Questions:

- Black Boy (Part I)*: A work of non-fiction, this book offers a sometimes chilling account of life in the South before the civil rights movement. As you read, ask yourself if you would be as determined and self-motivated as young Richard Wright if you had lived in the same circumstances. To what degree are you surprised by the circumstances in the South before the civil rights movement?
- The Great Gatsby*: This one is considered by many to be the greatest American novel of the 20th century. What is Fitzgerald's attitude about America as he writes in the 1920s?
- My Antonia*: Willa Cather is remembered, in part, for capturing the settling of the American frontier. As you read, consider what the frontier represents to Cather. Also, consider what this book teaches you about the experience of immigrants in America.