

RMHS Grade 10 Summer Reading
2009

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 Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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 Grapes of Wrath: This novel is widely remembered for its vivid depiction of life during one of the most difficult chapters of 20th century American history. As you read, consider whether this book has value beyond serving as a record of survival during the Dust Bowl.

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?

