Dear Senior AP English Student,

Welcome to Senior AP English. This class will be an intense, humanities approach to literature and ideas that will challenge you in almost every way. In addition to studying the stories and the authors, we will look at the respective social and philosophical cultures of each piece of literature and bring them together to answer some “big picture” questions throughout the year. Students succeed in Senior AP English because they have a natural curiosity about what they read and want to explore it further throughout the course. Your first task is to complete the summer reading assignments below.

I suggest you buy your own copy of the required book listed below. We will use it throughout the entire school year; so having your own copy is advantageous to borrowing a copy from the library. Copies of the required summer reading title are available at any area bookstore or are available on-line. Be aware that there are different versions of the book available (the difference is in the page numbers and perhaps some slight content changes), but we have always worked around that in class.

Before you start your summer reading:

1. You will be invited to join the “Sr. AP English Summer Reading” classroom page through Google Classroom. I will send out this invitation by June 15 through your school Gmail account. If you do not get the invitation, you may join the Classroom page by going to Google Classroom and using the code z15qtc. If you join on your own before the invitation, be aware that the complete list of assignments will not be finalized until June 15.
2. Complete the assignments in the order listed. They include listening to and viewing multi-media, reading a novel, and reading some longer non-fiction essays. Pay careful attention to the guiding questions posted on the Classroom site.
3. Have all of the assignments completed by the time you arrive for school in the fall. Everyone will write a timed essay based on the summer assignments during the first week we return.

Below are the required reading assignments for the summer—

#1 (Novel) On the Beach by Nevil Shute

#2 (Essays) Selected essays from The Night Country by Loren Eiseley. The specific essays will be uploaded to the Classroom page as PDF’s. You are strongly encouraged to download, print, read, and annotate them.

#3 (Various Media) There will be several sources listed on the Classroom Page. Some of them provide background to the novel or follow-up on specific themes. Be sure to take the time to go through these video and audio files since they will give you a needed perspective on the other parts of the summer assignments.
Keep notes on the book and the short readings. Include questions, reactions, character analysis, literary devices, recurrent elements or symbols, significant passages, larger ideas and arguments, and anything else that shows you ability to read and dissect a complex work of literature. **You need to bring your book, readings, and notes to the first full day of class.**

Additionally, you may email me over the summer at christopher.aquino@cusd200.org if you have any questions regarding the course, signing up for the Classroom page, or the summer reading.

I hope this letter gives you all the information you need to begin preparing for next year’s class. I truly believe you will have a challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable time with this course. I look forward to seeing all of you next year. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Aquino