

AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Assignments
Ellison – Hinds

The following assignments are to be completed prior to the start of the 2009-2010 academic year. In order to complete these assignments, you will first need to obtain a copy of Barbara Kingsolver's book, The Poisonwood Bible and Greg Mortenson's book, Three Cups of Tea One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time. These books are available at the Lexington Public Library, Joseph Beth, Barnes & Noble or any major bookseller.

The Poisonwood Bible

After reading The Poisonwood Bible, you must answer two of the three included prompts. The first prompt is required, you may choose from either the second or third prompts. Answer all prompts in relation to Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*.

Your writing assignments must meet the following criteria:

- At least two complete pages in length
- Typed, Double-Spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font
- Clearly and thoughtfully organized and composed

Prompt 1 - Required

Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures – national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question. Write a well-organized essay in which you describe how a character(s) from *The Poisonwood Bible* responds to such a cultural collision and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.

Prompt 2

Critic Roland Barthes has said, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Consider Barthes' observation in relation to *The Poisonwood Bible*. Write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. **Avoid mere plot summary.**

Prompt 3

Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Consider such as of betrayal in *The Poisonwood Bible*. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. **Avoid mere plot summary.**

Three Cups of Tea

One fundamental component of this class will be an exploration of our roles as citizens and the actions and contributions we make to facilitate change. Read Greg Mortenson's Three Cups of Tea One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time and reflect on the change that this book advocates. Think about how you contribute to society and the consequences that your actions have. Are you an advocate for change? What do your actions tell about you? Consider how important education and literacy are to your lives. Where would you be without education? As an educated person, are you morally obligated to give back to those less fortunate than you?

As you read the book, take notes and record your reactions. Be prepared to discuss the book, your reactions and answers to the above questions when we return to school.

Required Texts:

Kingsolver, Barbara. The Poisonwood Bible. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1998.

Mortenson, Greg, and David Oliver Relin. Three Cups of Tea One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time. New York: Penguin (Non-Classics), 2007.