

English IV Advanced Placement
Dual Credit
Gifted and Talented

Summer Reading Assignment

- Purchase a copy of *Graham Greene's The Power and the Glory* and read the novel closely. Make whatever notes you feel you need to help you understand the novel and the characters. Especially watch for ambiguities within the story and be prepared to discuss these. The novel challenges absolutes of what is right and what is wrong, who is good and who is bad.
- Be prepared to take a test over the novel the second day of class. It's a very picky, objective test.
- Because you are enrolled in a college-level writing course, you may want to consider purchasing a recent copy of the *MLA Handbook* (optional).
- Read the following poem and be prepared to offer your thoughts on it. Please bring the poem the first week of school.

Have a great summer.

Ms. Lori Brown

The Question

"We are what is missing from the world."

--Fernando Pessoa

Some questions have no answer.
Raised, they hang there in the mind
Like open mouths, full of something missing.
The great Portuguese poet, Pessoa,
Said that the idea of happiness
Is what makes men permanently sad.
The body, imagining the soul,
Looks ugly to itself.
A man hears a word, and the world
Becomes a place that he misunderstands.
So he climbs high into his life,
Ashamed of all he doesn't know,
And refuses to come down.

If you could coax him out again,
You could tell him, say,
That anything can be explained.
The shape of apples, for example,
By their love of travel.
Or that the sky is blue because
It's an easy color on the eyes.

Even the dog, chasing its tail,
Has, temporarily, a center.
Even the bird, disappearing into his hole
Knows that the world goes on without it.
And Pessoa, that eminently healthy man,
That artist, wore a blue wool hat
Even on the hottest summer days.
Simply to toss at strangers in the street.
He liked to see them catch it,
And grow immediately less strange.

--Tony Hoagland