Dear student,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! Your first reading assignment will be due on Monday, September 14th.

**AP Reading: “Journeys”**

This reading assignment requires you to keep a journal. Each of the texts on the reading list deals with the *journeys*, both literal and figurative, of the main characters. A multiple choice test, various writing assignments, and class discussions based on these works will figure heavily into your first quarter grade, so please complete the reading. Though you are not required to read over the summer, I recommend getting a head start so that you will not feel overwhelmed once school begins.

**Journal Keeping:** As you read the books, keep a journal of the “journeys” in the text. Don’t simply detail where the characters physically go; each text depicts profound conflicts/struggles that the characters grapple with, their own internal “journeys.” Imagine yourself in the scenarios from the texts. How would you deal with the obstacles they face? Which of your own strengths would you call upon and which of your weaknesses would be exposed? Switch from reflecting from your own perspective to the perspectives within the context of the books. Identify the conflicts the main characters have with their external environments and analyze how their desires to overcome these conflicts send them on their journeys.

The journal is due on September 14th. I recommend purchasing a composition book in which to record your observations. How long should the journal be? I recommend one entry per chapter. Make sure you date your entries.

**The reading assignment:**

1. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
   *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a novel by Mark Twain, commonly named among the Great American Novels. The work is among the first in major American literature to be written throughout in vernacular English. It is told in the first person by Huckleberry "Huck" Finn, and takes place in the American South around 1835.

2. *Black Boy* by Richard Wright
   *Black Boy* is a memoir of Richard Wright's concerning his childhood in the South in the 1920’s and his early adult years in Chicago.

3. *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac
   Many people consider *On the Road* the heart of the Beat movement. Poetic, open and raw, Kerouac's prose lays out a cross-country adventure as experienced by Sal Paradise, an autobiographical character, in 1947.

I suggest you buy paperback copies of the books so that you can annotate, highlight, and personalize them. All titles should be available new and used at bookstores and online. Please don’t hesitate to purchase used books in satisfactory condition.

If you feel intimidated by the requirements of this class, please consider withdrawing your application before the end of the school year since you will not be allowed to transfer out of this class when school begins in August. Please come see me in C-2 if you have any questions.

And finally, enjoy the reading and your summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. Coito