

## **English IV:**

1) There will be a reading comprehension quiz covering both books upon your return to class. Read them carefully. Enjoy them, too; each is interesting in its own way.

2) Select one of the two books and write a five paragraph review of it:

-Your review should either recommend or pan the book, giving supporting reasons in each case.

-It should be structured by a thesis sentence, given at the end of the introductory paragraph, and topic sentences that begin each body paragraph.

-It should bolster its arguments with specific references to the text, all of which should be cited by page number.

## **AP English Literature:**

“You see Watson, but you do not observe.” ~ Holmes

“If a writer ... knows enough about what he is writing about, he may omit things that he knows.... The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only one ninth of it being above water.” ~ Hemingway

There are three assignments. They should hopefully all be a nice mix of fun and challenging:

1) Do the reading. There will be a comprehension quiz when you return.

I selected the stories that I did most of all because they are enjoyable, but also because they all in their own way demand close, attentive reading, a skill we will be working on all year. Close reading is the equivalent of mental exercise: when you read with focus and attention, you walk away from the book with a stronger and fitter mind than you brought to it.

The Sherlock Holmes stories demand close attention because they are mysteries. You want to find the clues as you go.

The Hemingway stories should be read twice: the first time for pleasure, the second time with careful critical attention and an eye toward the eight ninths of the iceberg that Hemingway left beneath the surface.

I'd like to give a caution with regard to the Hemingway book. It contains sixty stories, not all of which I have been able to read in my short life, and there is a good chance that at

least a few of the ones that I have not assigned include violence or other things which some may find upsetting. The nine stories that I have selected are not harsh or gruesome in that way, but any other reading you may do in the volume is under your own responsibility. I recommend that for now you just stick with the nine that I have selected.

2) For each Sherlock Holmes tale, keep notes as to which characters tell a story during the course of it. Note as well the page number where their account begins.

3) Select one of the Hemingway stories and write an argument as to what the story is *really* about. What events in it are particularly significant? Do the characters learn anything? What do the events of the story illustrate about them? Use as many paragraphs as you feel are necessary to cover what's important, each beginning with a topic sentence, and cite any direct references. This is not meant to be a full essay, with thesis, intro, conclusion, etc., unless of course you would like to make it one. You are welcome to do so if you want to, but then it is summer, and so it's not a requirement.

All the best, see you in August,

Mr. Montalbano