**Advanced Placement Language and Composition**

**Summer Reading List 2014-2015**

You are required to read *The Great Gatsby* and one book of your choice from the list below. You should complete the reading by the first day of school in August. You do not have to do a project over the summer, but you will have assignments related to your books when you return to school.

**Required:*****The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* follows Jay Gatsby, a man who orders his life around one desire: to be reunited with Daisy Buchannan, the love he lost five years earlier. Gatsby's quest leads him from poverty to wealth, into the arms of his beloved, and eventually to death. Published in 1925, *The Great Gatsby* is a classic piece of American fiction. It is a novel of triumph and tragedy, noted for the remarkable way Fitzgerald captured a cross-section of American society.

**Choose one:**

***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck**

In John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Tom Joad and his family are forced from their farm in the Depression-era Oklahoma Dust Bowl and set out for California along with thousands of others in search of jobs, land, and hope for a brighter future. Considered John Steinbeck's masterpiece, *The Grapes of Wrath* is a story of human unity and love as well as the need for cooperative rather than individualistic ideals during hard times.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

In Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God,* Janie Crawford goes on a lifelong search for unconditional and fulfilling love, which she finally finds with her beloved Tea Cake. During her quest, Janie gains inner strength and independence — all while enduring the harsh judgment of the town gossips known as the "porch sitters." Through *Their Eyes Were Watching God,* Zora Neale Hurston served as one of the first female African-American voices of the early 20th century.

***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

When Chopin’s most famous story, *The Awakening*, was first published in 1899, it stunned readers with its frank portrayal of the inner world of Edna Pontellier, and its daring criticisms of the limits of marriage and motherhood. The subtle beauty of Chopin’s writing was contrasted with her unwomanly and sordid subject-matter: Edna’s rejection of her domestic role and her passionate quest for spiritual and artistic freedom.

***A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines**

Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying* tells the story of Jefferson, a young black man wrongly accused of robbing and murdering a white man and sentenced to death. During the trial, Jefferson internalizes his attorney's argument that he is too dim-witted to have planned such a robbery. His godmother, Miss Emma, enlists Grant Wiggins to teach Jefferson how to be a man and to die with dignity. Over the next few months, both men find the self-respect each had lost.