

## AP Language & Composition (10<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Summer Reading and Essay

Your first assignment for AP Lang will be to read the book *Black Boy* over the summer. *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright, is the autobiographical story of the author growing up as a young black man in the American South and his subsequent move to the North. You can find the book on your own, or you can check out a copy from Mr. DuBois in room 312.

After reading, you will then write a 2-2 ½ page literary analysis of the book. Your paper should answer the question, “What is a major theme of this book, and how does the author express that theme throughout the novel?”

Remember that your theme needs to be expressed as a thematic *statement* (“War is destructive,” for example) rather than a one-word thematic *concept* (“war”).

Your paper should include the following:

- An introduction with a thesis statement that clearly identifies the theme you are discussing
- Several examples of how the author expresses the theme, including page citations for both direct quotes and paraphrases
- A brief conclusion

The paper needs to be typed and double-spaced, with 1” margins all around and in 12-point font.

The paper is due on the first day of school. If you cannot bring in a (typed) paper copy, you can email me your paper or share it with me at [rdubois@stanthony.k12.mn.us](mailto:rdubois@stanthony.k12.mn.us).

Grading criteria for the paper (30 points total):

- Your **thesis statement** should be clear and well-crafted, identifying a relevant **theme** in the book and explaining how the author depicts that theme. (6 points)
- Your paper should have a clearly **organized** and easy to follow, with separate paragraphs that each focus on one main idea and transitions both between and within paragraphs. (6 points)
- Your **analysis** should clearly show the link between your chosen theme and elements of the book you use to prove that theme. (6 points)
- Your **support** from the text needs to be well-chosen and well-integrated into your writing, along with page citations. (6 points)
- Your **conventions** (spelling, grammar, usage, and punctuation) should be free of errors. (6 points)

Looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

- Mr. DuBois