Summer Reading Assignment 2015
11th Grade English Elective Classes
Baldwin and Gallagher

Summer Reading: All incoming Junior Elective students are required to read *One Mississippi* by Mark Childress and at least one approved fictional work by an American author for the research paper.

1. Directions for reading *One Mississippi* by Mark Childress:
   Please read and annotate your copy of *One Mississippi*. You should highlight important quotes and make notes in the margins that discuss key themes such as racism, coming-of-age, religion, death, love, adversity, etc. Also mark symbols and motifs that emerge as you read. For easy reference when you return to school, you should mark character names and descriptions on the inside front or back cover, along with page numbers indicating key character descriptions or references. You should be well read enough to take a test on *One Mississippi* when you return. If you read this text early in the summer, plan to reread in August shortly before returning so the text is fresh in your mind for first week discussions. Your book annotations will be graded and checked during the first week of school.

   Optional: You may also want to write brief summaries of chapters and scenes at the beginning or end of each chapter. Past students have found this to be very helpful.

2. Research Paper American Author Text(s):
   In addition to reading *One Mississippi*, you will need to read at least one of your approved texts by your chosen American author for the junior research paper. (We strongly recommend, however, that you read both.)

   You will maintain an electronic journal as you read your research paper text (typed notes that you will submit to Canvas on returning to school). For your electronic journal, create and label a separate page for each of the following:

   1. **Character**: list key characters, their traits, and conflicts they experience;
   2. **Symbols and Motifs**: identify and explain key symbols and motifs; and
   3. **Themes**: identify themes and key ideas that relate to your research paper lens or focus (as stated in your research paper rationale).

   Each page must include direct quotes with page numbers, as well as your own notes that explain what a particular quote means, why it’s significant, how it relates to your proposed topic, etc. All quotes should be MLA formatted with proper citations. You should have a minimum of three pages of notes. Do NOT simply cut and paste the Sparknotes (or similar online summaries) of your books. Your primary source notes will be due the first week of school. You will need to turn in a copy of your book with your typed and printed annotations so we can check the validity of your quotes.

   Optional: You may want to annotate your text (highlighting key quotes/passages, making marginal notes on plot, themes, symbols/motifs, characters, etc.). If you choose to annotate your
text, this will be in addition to your typed notes (not in place of). Many students find annotating their research paper texts helpful. If you choose to annotate your research paper texts, keep in mind that you should:

- Note passages that you find interesting, confusing, or ambiguous – quotes that feel important;
- Underline or circle key terms or ideas;
- Note observations about text in the margins of the book;
- Keep track of character descriptions in the back of your book (i.e. the inside back cover);
- Mark passages with powerful images, motifs, and themes;
- Note passages that connect to your research paper lens or focus (as initially decided in your research paper rationale);
- Write chapter or scene summaries at the beginning or end of each chapter.