

Extra Credit

Summer Novel Assignment

1. Select one of the following novels to read over summer:

In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez (*Come check it out from me Rm 506*)

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka (*PDF will be posted on my website*)

The Awakening by Kate Chopin (*PDF will be posted on my website*)

2. As you read, you will be responsible for sharing **three reflections**; the first one when you are one third of the way through the book, the second once you have completed two thirds, and the third when you are finished. Information on what to include in these reflections is presented below. These reflections may be typed, handwritten, or audio/video blogs. Your choice!

3. Each of your three reflections should document the following:

- **your understanding of the theme** - Reflect on the meaning of the book. Why did the author write this book? What aspects of the human experience are being explored? What does the book have to say on these topics? Does it offer answers, or just raise questions? What do you think about what the book is saying? Is the book challenging your beliefs or making you think about things you haven't considered before? How do the themes relate to the era in which the book was written? How do they relate to our world today?

- **your sense of the style of the novel** - Describe the choices the author is making in how the work is written. Who tells the story? How is the plot arranged (chronological? flashbacks? stream of consciousness)? What is the tone? Is it highly metaphorical or symbolic? Descriptive? How are the characters presented? What about syntax (sentence length and complexity)? Beyond simply describing, how do these choices relate to the content of the work?

- **your experience reading the book** - This is the place to talk about your journey through the book. This could be a place to talk about ease/difficulty of the text, your reading process, your level of enjoyment, how your prior knowledge/experience is affecting your experience with the book, or any other reflection on your personal engagement with the book.