



## Rising Eleventh Grade Summer Reading

You are required to read two books: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

### **Assignment I:**

#### ***The Great Gatsby***

*The Great Gatsby* is an early twentieth-century novel that presents a picture of post-World War I America in which affluence abounds alongside spiritual and moral bankruptcy. Though short, *The Great Gatsby* is an impactful book I hope you will enjoy. It will be the basis for a classroom discussion and quiz the first week of school; therefore, it is very important that you come to class having read and comprehended the novel in full. Please compose at least five thoughtful discussion prompts as you read the novel. As a class, we will select prompts on the first day of school to use for a discussion later that week. For the quiz, expect multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions, as well as short prompts based on key passages.

### **Assignment II:**

#### ***The Old Man and the Sea***

*The Old Man and the Sea* is another (relatively short) twentieth-century novel. It tells the story of a Cuban fisherman pursuing a giant marlin. This novel will also be the basis for classroom discussion (again, please bring at least five prompts) and a quiz the first week of school.

After completing both novels, write a five-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting any element of the books (their plots, their composition, their symbolism, etc) you desire. Because Fitzgerald and Hemingway were contemporaries and friends, and because both novels portray a pursuit of sorts, you will not be the first to write such an analysis; however, I want to read YOUR thoughts on this topic (and – once again - sharing thoughts is something this class does very well!). The only “wrong” answer is one unsupported by the text. After reading and thinking about the novels and their morals, take time to consider your own thoughts on how they compare, rather than seeking out an online source’s answers. Focus on a clear thesis and introduction, followed by well thought-out body paragraphs. We will review possible outlines for a compare and contrast essay prior to summer vacation.

Printed copies of this paper, typed in MLA format, will be due on the first day of school.

I will be available all summer to answer questions or help clarify the reading and writing assignments. Please email me at [tsmith@tcsopelika.org](mailto:tsmith@tcsopelika.org) if I can be of further assistance.