

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (11<sup>th</sup> grade AP)**

**PLEASE NOTE: You MUST get physical copies of these books. No digital copies will be allowed—your assignment will require you to have physical copies in class.**

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*skip the first chapter titled The Custom-House*)

**AND** the following essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson

- Nature (Emerson published two essays with this title: you need to read the version from 1836 that begins “*To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society*”)
- The Transcendentalist
- Self-Reliance

I will be using *The Essential Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* published by The Modern Library (ISBN: 978-0-679-78322-0) Local bookstores have been asked to stock this edition.

**Summer Reading Assignment: 11<sup>th</sup> grade AP English**

*The Scarlet Letter* and the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson are generally grouped in the same historical time period, known as the Romantic Period. Note: while published during the Romantic Period *The Scarlet Letter* is set during the Puritan period (i.e. before the American Revolutionary War).

During the first week of school, you will be asked to write an in-class, timed essay that compares themes in Emerson’s essays to those in Hawthorne’s novel. Each class will have a different theme to discuss. Examples of possible themes are: the natural world; individuality; knowledge/ epistemology; ethics/ morality; the imagination. **This will be an open-book assignment; thus you will need physical (not digital) copies with you in class to complete it.** It is strongly suggested that you annotate your copies of the books for use during your in-class assignment.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Mr. Dickson at [jdickson@madison-schools.com](mailto:jdickson@madison-schools.com)