

March 16, 2020

Dear AP Literature Students,

Sometimes life takes an unexpected twist and this is one of those times. As the American poet Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967) stated, "Nearly all the best things in life have been unexpected, unplanned by me." It is my sincerest desire that this ring true for you. This is such an opportunity for you to become lifelong learners and explorers of literature.

You are going to read *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. Mr. Guterson lives on Bainbridge Island, a ferry ride from Seattle and about an hour by driving from Tacoma. The story is fiction but the internment of the Japanese during WWII is real, as well as the blatant prejudice against the Japanese following the war. I chose this book for you because I have learned that students get their noses into this story and cannot put the book down. There is also a film but the film cuts out parts that are pretty important.

I am also giving you the AP practice exam book. You should, during this break, practice two full exams. This means setting aside, in a quiet room, 3 hours. Time yourself. Know that even if you do not do well on the exam, merely practicing is learning in itself. There is good information at the beginning of the book about approaches to the exam. I highly recommend you read this AND TAKE NOTES. Do not write in the books and return them upon your return to school.

You all mean the world to me and I am so proud of how each of you have grown and developed your understanding of literature this year in your own, individual way. This is the time to be your best self, to tackle all your assignments and to truly prepare yourself for how you will continue to learn, to challenge yourself, and to develop your own inquiry as you enter young adulthood.

Much love,

Mrs. Turner
xo ☺