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Dear AP Literature and Composition Students,

The following is the assignment that will help prepare you for the wonderful year ahead in this rigorous course. The summer assignment is due on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Read *and* thoroughly annotate either
Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*
or
Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*

When choosing your summer novel, keep in mind that you will have to read both novels, as well as the *Book of Jonah*, by mid-October. As you annotate, consider significant themes that develop throughout the novel.

Ultimately, you will write a comparative essay that analyzes a controlling theme present in all three texts.

Looking ahead:

The *Book of Jonah*, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, and Melville's *Moby Dick*, convey a wrathful God who dominates over a particular figure; however, as time passes, central characters are portrayed as being less faithful. While descriptions of an omnipotent God prevail, individuals are depicted as more egomaniacal. Jonah, Crusoe, and Ahab are characters whose self-interest motivates them, but they respond differently in how they will relinquish their personal objectives to the will of God. Only after overcoming struggles in an oceanic realm, putting aside their egoistic ways, and submitting to God, can these characters be granted the ability to return to a secure state on land in a unified community. Surrounded by religious language and seafaring terminology, Jonah's complete resignation of self forms a single unified Nineveh under God; Robinson maintains allegiance to God only when his person is at stake, but still embraces a society that employs Christian ideals; finally, under Ahab's leadership and desire to destroy Moby Dick, a representation of God, he brings about the demise of his entire community. Jonah's total submission to God, Robinson's frequent quasi-negotiations with God to obtain his personal goals, and Ahab's attempt at domination over the divine, result in the formation of either unified or disbanded communities.

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