

# THE A.P. ENGLISH 11-12 SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT

A.P. 11-12 students will once again enjoy the reading of two great works of literature over the summer break. We will be using both books in class during the year. You will not be required to complete study guides; you merely must read the books and take the reading tests on the dates indicated.

## **THE POWER AND THE GLORY (available from Mr. Fenske)**

Test date: Wednesday, August 24 (the second day of school)

*The Power and the Glory* is a 20<sup>th</sup> century British novel by Graham Greene. It concerns an unnamed priest who is on the run from the communist government of one of the states in southern Mexico. The priest has several additional problems, one of which is that he is an alcoholic in a state that has prohibition.

Greene spent a lot of time working in Hollywood doing scripts, and Part I of the book mimics a movie by cutting away from one group of people to another to establish the basic setting and tone of the book. Many of the people in Part 1 are not major characters. Throughout Part 1, the unnamed stranger who appears in each scene (or is talked about) is the whiskey priest.

Once you get to Parts 2-3, you'll find the book easier to read, as the lieutenant chases the priest. Parts 2-3 are almost completely told from the whiskey priest's point of view. Then, in Part 4, the book reverts back to the cutaways of Part 1.

The major characters of the book are the whiskey priest, the lieutenant, and the half-caste. Of secondary importance are the peasant family (they are reading a book about a fictional martyr named Juan), the jefe of police, the Lehrs, and ex-Padre Jose. In addition, there are a number of minor characters who provide some perspective on the priest, such as Mr. Tench, the villagers, the Fellows family, villagers, prisoners, Maria and Brigitta, and the American fugitive.

## **THE FIXER (available from Mr. Fenske)**

Test date: Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (the fourth day of school)

*The Fixer* is a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning novel by American author Bernard Malamud that is set in Czarist Russia not long before the revolution. Yakov Bok is a young, unreligious Jewish handyman who is blamed for the murder of a 12 year old Russian boy. This gripping (in my opinion) novel recounts his struggle for vindication against ever-increasing odds.