

Storyteller and *House Made of Dawn*
Summer Reading Assignment
English 11, AP Language and Composition

The instructors of AP Language have selected two pieces, blendings of fiction and nonfiction, that address important universal themes of self-discovery and the quest. You are required to engage in a close reading of Leslie Marmon Silko's *Storyteller* and N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn*.

You may be wondering, "What exactly is close reading?" It involves getting to know the text through annotation; you will read as a scholar, critically and purposefully, with a pen or pencil in hand, marking passages and making notations about whatever you feel is striking or significant. To annotate effectively, you should identify and consider important rhetorical strategies and resources of language in each work, such as: connotation, metaphor, symbol, irony, syntax, diction, and tone, all of which illuminate the author's style and purpose. This endeavor, which you may feel slows down your pace, helps you process and will also serve as a practical referencing tool. When you return in the fall and need to refresh your memory to write an essay or to prepare for a Socratic seminar, your notations will prove invaluable.

Pairing the Readings:

- Consider the following themes in each work to guide you in your close reading. Choose one passage from each text that addresses each of the following six themes (for a total of 12 passages):
 1. Frontier
 2. Fear and Moral Struggle
 3. Identity: Individual within Community
 4. Journey
 5. Initiation and Self-Discovery
 6. Conformity and Rebellion
- For each passage you choose, write two to three sentences explaining how the language of the passage illustrates the theme with which you have identified the excerpt.
- Pay attention to similarities in technique between Momaday and Silko. Think about narrative perspective and what is gained through the additional of multiple narrators; look at each author's use of setting, both physical and temporal; consider how each author depicts Native American culture or the clash of cultures between Native Americans and Anglos; reflect on the role of storytelling and figures who tell stories/maintain cultural memories in both texts; examine both works for their autobiographical content, when appropriate.

Note: Because annotation is subjective, you may find that your peers have marked or that your teacher is citing words, phrases, or entire passages that you did not. That is okay. You will likely note similar overarching ideas. The AP Language instructors encourage you to be self-directed, but, of course, you are welcome to email Mrs. Boswell, Mr. Piersol, or Mr. Coleman if you have questions.