

**English 12: World Literature**  
***The Journey through Literature to Life***  
**2010 Summer Reading Guide**

**Assignment:** In twelfth grade World Literature, you are asked to rise to a new level of critical thinking by making connections between the literature you read and the life you lead. In literature, as in life, individuals must make choices that deeply affect them in various ways. As you are reading the three excellent novels — Hesse’s *Siddhartha*, Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse Five*, consider the type of journey that each central character undergoes. Consider what it is the protagonist if each novel seeks to find? Do they undergo multiple types of “journey” throughout each of their lives? In the end, what does each novel’s main character find out about him or herself? About the world at large? When you return from the summer you will write an in-class essay that assesses your ability to define the kinds of journey each character undergoes. You will have to decipher whether Siddhartha’s journey, Janie’s journey or Billy Pilgrim’s journey is a successful one or a fruitless one. Make response notes to the following journey questions below:

*Is each novel’s central character on a...*

journey to find faith in God, love, or the overall goodness of human kind?

journey to find peace within themselves or within the world at large?

journey to rediscover decency, integrity, or compassion?

journey to ironically lose him or herself? (Sometimes we must first meander before we find our individual paths).

journey toward mental, physical, emotional, and psychological maturity?

journey to understand God and the origins of and purpose for creation?

journey to challenge our ideas of morality and/or mortality?

journey to become a real thinking, breathing, living human in touch with nature and the physical world around them?:

**\*Please be able to answer each question based on reasonable evidence from all of the summer reading novels.**