



Welcome to Honors Language Arts 11

During the school year, we will read literary works that examine the chronology of America as a coming-of-age story for the American Dream of liberty and justice for all. The novels we read each quarter will enhance your understanding of our nation's history and culture, which you will study concurrently in eleventh-grade social studies or AP US History.

In H LA 11, you will continue building your close reading skills, which means thinking about not just *what* happens but *what ideas* the author conveys to readers about life and relationships and *how* those meanings are communicated in the text.

To get started and allow for more reading than our school schedule affords without adding more stress on you during the year, please read the following novel during the summer: ***Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks**. (I informed the local Barnes & Noble store of your reading, and there's always Amazon, of course).

Download and print the study questions on my website (mayswebsite.com) and use it to help you make connections and draw conclusions about the novel's characters and to form ideas about the human experiences conveyed in the novel.

I will collect your answers ON THE FIRST DAY of class, and you should be prepared to take a reading test (multiple choice) and participate in class discussion during the first week of the new school year. Enjoy your reading! I think you will like the novel.

I look forward to meeting you and starting our school year together. Be prepared for lots of reading, writing, and discussion. It will be a rigorous class, but I believe you will learn a lot and be well rewarded for your effort.