THEMATIC FOCUS

“Self-inflicted alienation versus social-inflicted alienation”

American Literature

**Focus Quote: Another circumstance tormented me in those days: that no one resembled me and that I resembled no one else. “I am alone and they are *every one*,” I thought—and pondered.**

**--Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

**Directions**

**Part One (Blog):** You will read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. Both are available in the WRHS library.

For each book, you are required to participate in a weekly blog. **We will begin blogging about *The Scarlet Letter* on June 17th. The blog about *The Catcher in the Rye* will begin on July 8th. Make sure to plan your reading schedule accordingly.**

All blogs are posted on my webpage http://mrsstognersaplanguageandcomp.weebly.com/ Specific requirements about the blog will be posted on this page at the beginning of June. Each student is required to post a certain number of posts to the blog and will be graded according to thoughtfulness, knowledge of the text, and the complexity of the level of discussion. **Blogs are an ongoing assignment and cannot be made up. If you do not participate in the blog, you will receive a 0 for Part One of the summer reading assignment**. (200 points)

There will also be a 60 question objective test (60 points) on the books on the second day of school.

**Part Two:** Using the Internet, browse through reputable websites that have either speeches or academic articles, I recommend [www.AmericanRhetoric.com](http://www.AmericanRhetoric.com) . Skim through the websites and select two articles or speeches that you feel would supplement or expand our discussion of “alienation.” Print a copy of each. Highlight and/or annotate both articles in detail. Then, type a one page summary of each article (MLA format). You will turn in a total of two articles and two summaries. (50 points for each article)

\*The novels, along with the printed articles, will be used for additional assignments, including a PowerPoint presentation, during the first two weeks of school. Note: Your summer reading assignment totaling 360 points, will be worth as much as 25% of your first quarter grade.

**Part Three:** Finally organize your articles and summaries in a small folder, and turn them in on the first day of school. Include a typed cover page (in MLA format) and a typed table of contents. Please note that late assignments or untyped assignments will not be accepted (no exceptions and no excuses). Be sure to not use any summary-type websites including *Spark Notes* and *Wikipedia*, or to plagiarize in any way. Plagiarism will result in a “0.” I need to know what your capabilities are. I will be available most of the summer through email or the website, so please feel free to contact me at bstogner@musd.net .