11 Honors Literary Research Project

What is it?
- You will read and annotate (and become expert in) a chosen text (novel or collection of stories or poems) and 8-12 nonfiction articles. The latter will be critical essays or background on your author and/or text.
- You will write a longer paper (6-8 full pages) of analysis, including a works cited page with at least six (6) sources cited (in addition to your chosen text) within your paper.

How is this similar to projects/papers you have already done?
- Your in-class essays on Death of a Salesman and The Things They Carried and your formal, developed essays on The Great Gatsby and Song of Solomon will have all prepared you for the kind of close reading and careful written analysis that you will do on this project.
- Your work using the various critical theories will also help you as you focus your analysis.

How is it different? What makes it a research paper?
- The research (reading about your text and author) that you will do on this project will give it more depth than on the above essays.
- The nonfiction critical essays and background articles will help you extend your thinking.
- Your own paper will include a strong thesis (your central argument) that you will support with examples and analysis from your chosen novel and with ideas and quotations from the critical essays (the “research”).
- You may use these articles to support and/or contrast with your analysis.

How will it be graded?
- The paper will be graded using the District 88 rubric for literary research papers including MLA formatting.
- The paper will be worth 200 points.
- You will also earn approximately 100 process points for your write ups, annotations, sources, your rough thesis statement, an outline, and various drafts.

What else do you need to know?
- The paper will be due on Sunday, May 8th, uploaded to turnitin.com by Midnight.
- This project is similar to the kind of work you will do next year and in college.
- It might be the most fun you have ever had. Let me know…