February 20, 2014

Dear Advanced Placement Summer Institute English Literature Participant,

Just think, in a few very short weeks, your students will be sitting for the AP English Lit and Comp examination. If you're anything like me, you are already taking a look back at what you've done this school year and are planning refinements/modifications for next year. That's what our week together will be all about. Since you are all experienced teachers of AP English I hope that we will share strategies, techniques and ideas from which we can all benefit.

My emphasis will be on taking a close look at the components of the exam to determine what analytical strategies we can encourage students to use to be more successful. What can we, as teachers, do better in our presentation of poetry and prose? Each teacher's curriculum is driven by his or her school's demographic, budget and culture. So that you can prepare for your particular class(es), please bring a copy of your syllabus with you along with copies of the textbook(s) which you use. In addition, I would like each of you to bring copies of The Awakening and The Great Gatsby. If you have not yet read Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walter, please do so before we meet and add that to your bag. Together we will create materials for use with each of these titles.

During the institute, you will create what I call "a bundle," which is a unit that "bundles" a novel, play, poetry and other prose drawing from both print and visual media which share a common theme or style. For this, please select a novel, which you have taught or plan to teach during the 2013-14 school year. We will share these with the group on the last day or so of our institute-in lieu of "best practice" we'll do "new practice."

Please bring a laptop and a thumb drive with you; we will be using the Internet on an ongoing basis throughout the week. Pack up colored pencils and stickies for "color-marking" as we analyze prose and poetry as well as a 3-ring binder for organization. Also bring any questions you may have for me and/or the group. I think we'll have many for one another. Should you have any questions for me prior to the institute, send me an email at godesseng@hargray.com or call me at 843-368-2638.

I am really looking forward to meeting you and spending this time with you in summer.

Sincerely,

Pat Whyte