

Aloha e Nā Haumāna of AP English Literature and Composition (19-20 SY),

Welcome to the class. I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all and seeing how our course will unfold as we work together. First, please login into Google Classroom and join our group with the following code: 1nj40k. Make sure you determine HOW you will receive alerts of postings—Text or e-mail. If you have ANY questions or trouble connecting to our class site, please contact me by e-mail at haspence@ksbe.edu. Without further ado...

Your Summer reading for our class is Ernest Gaines' novel, *A Gathering of Old Men*. The language may start off a bit strange since the novel takes place in the South; however, similar to pidgin, read it exactly as it sounds. For the first chapter, you may want to read the text aloud until you become more comfortable. I encourage you to watch a few YouTube videos set in Louisiana. It will help to hear their accent.

The main events of the novel take place in one day—within about 6 hours—but you will witness the same day through the eyes/perspectives of many different people, so **pay attention** to the shifts in **point-of-view** from first person, second person, and third person omniscient and limited. Also **pay attention** to HOW Gaines develops his **characters**: direct and indirect/inferred. Also, look for and record evidence of **motif** (yes, look this word up if you forgot). We will be identifying and analyzing the purpose/meaning of the number of motifs (yes, there are many) created by Gaines to tell his story.

Make certain you keep track of characters, specifically, gender, age, and status. It will help you to keep all the characters distinct in your mind as well as create a context in which to examine their perspective. **Pay attention** to HOW Gaines develops/defines/illustrates their connection to place. Also compare each character or group of characters' relationships to location and their personal sense values/beliefs/truth/right/wrong.

In preparation for discussion and summer reading essay, it is your responsibility to keep track of observations, author's usage of literary techniques as well as interesting quotes in a reading journal or in another form. You may want to create a chart for each chapter/character. This process will be helpful with character analysis.

Finally, I would advise you to take very thorough notes OR "put off" reading your *A Gathering of Old Men* novel until near the end of summer, so that the events/plot of the novel are clear in your mind when you come to class. This reading of the book is a fast one and should take only a couple day or so—on the beach is nice!

Anyway, enjoy and have a FANTASTIC Summer Vacation, before you return as Seniors of Kamehameha Schools—Kapālama!

Mālama pono,
Kumu Spencer