**AP Literary Analysis Paper**

For your one outside of class paper for spring semester, you will be looking back over the novels/plays we have read this year (*Wuthering Heights, Their Eyes Were Watching God, The Metamorphosis, Othello, Crime and Punishment, Native Son, The Taming of the Shrew, Heart of Darkness, Things Fall Apart, and Pride and Prejudice*). Think about each piece you’ve read, the class discussions we’ve had, and the writings you’ve done.

Then, choose what you believe to be a common theme between at least four of the stories (or more). Write a 3-4 page paper in which you discuss how each author develops this theme in their work. Use specific evidence from each text to back up your assertions. When using evidence, make sure that you use parenthetical citations and have a works cited page, done in MLA style. I KNOW you have done this before, so I won’t be spending time in class going over it again. If you need help, check out the *MLA Handbook* (7th ed), available in any public library. You can also get help from my website—there is a link to a handout called “MLA Citation Style.” The easy part is that there are only books that you will need to cite—the easiest one to do (and something you’ve been doing all along on your summary sheets, supposedly…).

Please remember to avoid plot summary…that is not what you are being asked to do. Also, make sure that you don’t simply say that the author uses a specific diction (or whatever) to develop the theme without giving specific textual examples of **how** he does so and **why** he does so. And for goodness sake, make sure you tell me what the common theme is in your introduction (even better, in your thesis statement)! Remember theme is not one word or even a phrase—it is a statement ABOUT that word or phrase. It should be the point the author is trying to make—what he wants YOU to learn and/or take away from the piece.

Make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism (both intended and unintentional). You will be submitting your paper to *turnitin.com* upon completion—details to follow. Any evidence of plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and at the very least, you will receive a zero on your paper.

And please, please, please…ask for help if you need it. I’m available on weekends on AIM at **msmelancon1**, and of course, I’m here before and after school and via email. Do NOT wait until the last minute!! It would probably be a good idea to submit to me your thesis paragraph/statement far in advance of you actually writing your paper so that you are sure you are headed in the right direction before you spend all that time writing.

Deadline for rough drafts is **Thursday, May 2**, and final drafts due the following **Friday, May 10**. If you are out of class because you are taking an AP test, YOUR ESSAY IS STILL DUE TO ME VIA EMAIL!!!! Then turn in hard copy when you return.