Your summer assignment for Junior AP English is threefold:

- **Read** two books
- **Annotate** the books
- **Write** theses for the books and an introduction for one of them.

1. You are to **read** completely at least two novels this summer, John Steinbeck’s *The Winter of Our Discontent* and Annie Proulx’s *The Shipping News*.

2. As you read, also underline, draw pictures, connect arrows between words and phrases—whatever it takes to remind yourself later of your impressions. Circle any words whose meanings you don’t know and look them up. Most important, this **annotation** must include notes to yourself in the margins, asking questions, making observations, recording other page numbers or allusions or emotional or intellectual responses. Mere highlighting with pretty colors is not enough. Only copious marginalia will suffice. Bring your two novels to class the first day back in the fall, as I will check your copies of the novels to assure that you have fulfilled this assignment.

3. After you have finished reading the novels, **write** three theses for each novel (for a total of six). For this assignment I’m not interested in what others have said about these novels. I want to read theses that suggest your interests and discoveries. Remember that a thesis should be specific and direct, should suggest a means to an end (“How does your topic lead to some fuller understanding of something larger than itself in the novel?”), and should tell your reader exactly what your paper will explore. For one of your six theses, write an introductory paragraph in which that thesis appears and underline the thesis. The introduction should engage the reader, provide some kind of background, and include the name of the author and his or her novel. This introduction may become the first paragraph of a paper that will be due the Monday of the second week of school. On the first day of school, bring your six theses and introduction, typed and double-spaced, to our English class, along with your two novels.