

HISP@CKM

HISP 11 Literature Summer Reading Essay Prompt 2017

Downey/Gatten

Assignment: You will read the novel *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver and write a 3 page/750 word essay in response to the following prompt. The essay will be due at the beginning of the second week of school.

As 10th graders, HISP students study the effects of Imperialism on various areas of the world. As 11th graders, HISP students will study the concept of The American Dream, its origins, its evolution, and whether or not this dream actually exists as a reality. *The Poisonwood Bible* serves as a bridge between these two areas of study.

How does Kingsolver's novel illustrate the connection between the ideas of the American Dream and Imperialism? What does this novel demonstrate about the legacy of Imperialism in Africa? What does this novel demonstrate about the American Dream?

As preparation for your essay, use the following link to access and read the article "In Search of the American Dream."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/06/in-search-of-the-american-dream/305921/>

Another potentially helpful article, "Rethinking the American Dream," can be found at this link...

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2009/04/american-dream200904>

You may also want to investigate the meaning behind the following terms:

American Exceptionalism

The White Man's Burden

Idealism

If you get stuck and have questions, email one of the teachers:

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Have a great summer and happy reading!