

## **American Literature Summer Reading Assignment**

In the fall, the American Literature course will introduce essays for each unit providing an overview of the cultural and historical events and ideas influencing each literary period. The instruction for the literature selections is structured around the reading process approach. Students will improve close-reading skills with questions during reading that focus on the three strands of study: Analyze, Read, and Evaluate.

Assignment:

To prepare for this course, each student should purchase a copy of *His Excellency: George Washington*, by Joseph J. Ellis. Upon reading the book, the student should then should answer each question in the following three sections. The answers should be **handwritten on notebook paper** using complete sentences and proper grammar.

This assignment should be submitted to your teacher on the first day of class.

### **General Reflection:**

- 1) What did you find most interesting about George Washington's life? Why?
- 2) What did you learn about yourself or the world by reading this biography?
- 3) If you could ask George Washington one question, what would it be?

### **Analysis:**

- 1) What were the biggest challenges Washington faced?
- 2) What were the key turning points in his life?
- 3) What was Washington's biggest strengths and weaknesses?
- 4) What was his most significant achievement?
- 5) How might the world be different if this person had not lived?

### **Connection:**

- 1) How does George Washington inspire you?
- 2) What character traits do you admire in Washington?
- 3) What could you learn from his life?
- 4) How does Washington's life relate to your own?
- 5) What lessons from this biography can you apply to your own life?