



# CROSSROADS COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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## **AP Literature and Composition** *The Scarlet Letter & Americanah*

2021-2022  
Summer Reading

Dear AP Literature and Composition Students,

Sarah and I are looking forward to a year of deep reading and thinking about a variety of challenging literary texts. Since I will be your teacher for the first semester, I am writing to share my expectations for summer reading. We will discuss the following texts in the opening weeks of school in August:

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

You must use physical copies of these books, those that you purchase or those that you borrow from the library. Do not use e-books.

### Part I

In addition to having read both texts, you need to be prepared to participate in discussions of each immediately. To that end, you need to share a short document with me prior to our first class meeting. The document should include the following:

- Two passages from *The Scarlet Letter* and two passages from *Americanah* (think 30-40 lines each) that you believe shed light on one or more of the author's larger aims.
- After each passage, write 3-5 sentences explaining how these passages shed light on one or more of the author's particular aims.

Please identify the opening and closing words of your selected scenes in the following manner: "Drink then," he replied . . . that scarlet letter blazing at the end of our path!" Please note page numbers as well.

### Part II

Critic Roland Barthes writes, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Given the passages you've chosen, what central question does each novel raise? Explain how this central question informed your reading of *The Scarlet Letter* and *Americanah*. Be brief and avoid plot summary.

