

Mount Saint Mary Academy
Advanced Placement Language & Composition
Summer Reading 2010

Texts

<i>Eats, Shoots & Leaves</i>	Truss, Lynne
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Wilde, Oscar

Assignments:

1. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*. (We will begin discussion of this work during the first week of school. Your books will be checked and you will be given a grade for your annotation.) What would you identify as Truss' central argument in *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*? How does she go about convincing her audience of her perspective? Note phrases that establish Lynne Truss's "ethos" or "persona" (her character as she's addressing you as a reader) and your *implied* identity as a reader. How does she try to influence your attitude toward precision in punctuation? Make a comprehensive list of the techniques she uses in developing her argument, and its many components, e.g. humor, hyperbole, anecdotes, etc.

2. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. (You will submit an essay on this work the last week of September. We will discuss the work in class prior to essay submission.) **Before you begin reading**, do some research on *modernism* and the philosophy of *aestheticism*. While reading, consider how these movements apply to the work. It will also be illuminating to do some research on Oscar Wilde's life.

Consider the questions below **while you read**, and be prepared to discuss these and other topics in class. In addition to specific questions about the text, also keep a log of all of Lord Henry's epigrams, explaining them as well as *reacting to* them.

- What does the novel reveal about racism, class prejudice, and/or values in the late 1800's?
- What is the moral of the story?
- What kinds of arguments does the novel make? How are these arguments made and are they effective? Explain. Which character or characters do you think may be the voice of the author? (consider your research on Oscar Wilde's life)
- Develop your own questions (at least 5) in response to the text. These may include questions about theme, writing style, author intention/purpose or devices (such as foreshadowing, symbolism, allusions, character development etc.)