You must **read one** of the following books **by the first day of school**. Every College English student will complete a project/on-line assignment that assesses understanding of the novel you have chosen for summer reading.

There is a distinct theme of individuality and self-discovery throughout the literature taught in English 103/104. The following choices support the same theme:

**1984**: (George Orwell) The totalitarian state of the future deprives the individual of freedom and dignity through the tele-screen, propaganda techniques, and thought control.

**Siddhartha**: (Herman Hesse) The spiritual quest of a young Hindu boy is detailed.

**Pride and Prejudice**: (Jane Austen) A mother’s remarks and a younger sister’s behavior almost ruin the marriage prospects of two fine girls.

**Jane Eyre**: (Charlotte Bronte) The day she is supposed to marry Edward Rochester, Jane learns he has an insane wife secluded at Thornfield Hall.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**: (Betty Smith) Francine Knoll, oldest child in an impoverished family, struggles to survive and to get an education.

**Gone With the Wind**: (Margaret Mitchell) Scarlet O’Hara escapes from besieged Atlanta, determined to rebuild the family estate ravaged by Sherman’s troops.

**The Chosen**: (Chaim Potok) The odyssey of two young men journeying from boyhood to manhood set against the background of the conflicts and traditions of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews.

**The Joyluck Club**: (Amy Tan) This novel chronicles the lives of four Chinese women, their forty-year friendships, and how the death of one of the members brings her daughter into the group, creating a new understanding for each.

**Wuthering Heights**: (Emily Bronte) The thwarted love of Heathcliff, a gypsy orphan, for Catherine, his benefactor’s daughter, entails terrible consequences.

**Water for Elephants**: (Sara Gruen) A historical novel told as a series of memories by Jacob Jankowski, a “ninety or ninety-three year-old” man who lives in a nursing home.
**A Thousand Splendid Suns:** (Khaled Hosseini) A breathtaking story set against the volatile Events of Afghanistan’s last thirty years – from Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding – that puts violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms.

**First Phone Call from Heaven:** (Mitch Albom) The story of a small town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. Is it the greatest miracle ever or a massive hoax?

**The Illustrated Man:** (Ray Bradbury) A book of eighteen short stories that explore the nature of mankind. While none of the stories has a plot or character connection with the next, a recurring theme is the conflict of the cold mechanics of technology and psychology of people. The unrelated stories are tied together by the tattooed “Illustrated Man.”

**Frankenstein:** (Mary Shelley) Victor Frankenstein learn how to create life and creates a being in the likeness of man, but larger than average and more powerful.

**Great Expectations:** (Charles Dickens) A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor – these form a series of events that change the orphaned Pip’s life forever.

**The Picture of Dorian Gray:** (Oscar Wilde) Dorian Gray’s picture grows aged and corrupt while he continues to appear fresh and innocent.

**The Turn of the Screw:** (Henry James) One of the world’s most famous ghost stories, the tale is told mostly through the journal of a governess and depicts her struggle to save her two young charges from the demonic influence of the eerie apparitions of two former servants in the household.

**The Kiterunner:** (Khaled Hosseini) Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, The Kite Runner is the unforgettable and beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul.