



Oak Ridge High School
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May 1, 2019

Dear English 12 AP students:

During the summer, students in Senior AP English will need to read *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad. Be sure that you are purchasing the paperback edition from St. Martin's Press of *Heart of Darkness (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism, Third Edition)*.

Principal

Martin G. McDonald

In addition to reading *Heart of Darkness* before school begins, you are to respond to the following topic:

By way of Marlow's narration, we are privy to his reactions, thoughts, and feelings as he descends deeper and deeper into the heart of the Belgian Congo. However, it is only Kurtz's exit from the jungle, not his initial entry that is chronicled for us. Since Conrad does not supply us with Kurtz's journey, your assignment is to create one through a personal journal. Your journal, in Kurtz's voice, will record his descent, both literally and spiritually, into the interior darkness of the Congo. Kurtz's journey, like Marlow's journey, must be seen as both a physical and a psychological one and must reflect his emotional and mental states. Begin your journaling in Brussels with Kurtz's separation entry as he bids farewell to "his intended"; include an entry at each location in the jungle where Marlow stops on his journey. The last entry should be just before Kurtz's death in the pilot house aboard Marlow's steamship.

Assistant Principals

Beth Estep

Amber Henry

B. Scotty Herrell

Stephanie Thompson

Obviously, Conrad did not have access to computers; however, we prefer that your entries be typed. Kurtz's journal ought to be bound and covered in an appropriately aged condition to reveal the passage of time.

If purchasing this text is a problem for any reason, or if you have other questions, please contact Mr. Feuer, mfeuer@ortn.edu, or call the school (425-9600) and leave us a message.

Athletic Director

Mike Mullins

Sincerely yours,
The Senior AP Teachers