Every student enrolled in Themes in World Literature is required to have completed **TWO TEXTS** by the first day of class in September. During the first week of school, you will be assessed on your readings. These assessments will count as English grades for the first marking period.

About the texts:

- **The Stranger** (by Albert Camus—fiction)
  Caught in the grip of forces he does not understand, a quiet, ordinary clerk in Algiers commits a murder.

- **I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives** (by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda—memoir) This title has been selected because it provides insight into the Essential Question: **How does kindness have the power to change people’s lives?**
  This is a wonderful story about friendship:
  The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.
  It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place.
  Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.
  That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

It is recommended that you give yourselves enough time to read carefully and thoughtfully. While reading, you are encouraged to take notes and use post-its. For the first week of school students **must also complete at least ONE graphic organizer for EACH text** (see the HS English Summer Reading webpage for links to graphic organizers). The website also includes reading questions that you can think about while reading.