

Summer Reading
English 12 - Pulsinelli

READING ASSIGNMENT:

White Teeth, Zadie Smith
The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende

Read carefully and critically, spreading your work across the summer break. If you have previously read any of the material, you should reread it. I advise you to take notes (observations, comments, favorite passages, questions, and so forth) that you may return to later. In addition to keeping the basic plot and names straight, you should pay special attention to the development of character and themes. You are welcome to get the books wherever you like, and any editions or translations will do. Paper or electronic versions are fine for summer reading.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1. Responses:** From *each* book, copy three quotations that you find particularly meaningful. Type a well-developed one-paragraph response to each quotation (so six total). Explain how the quotation develops an essential insight into the personality of a character or how it develops one of the book's major themes. Paragraphs must be clear, organized, concise, and grammatically correct.
- 2. Creative Writing:** For *each* book, write a typed page from the perspective of one character from the book (so two total). Be creative, but also prove to me that you know the character in question and understand his or her motivation, values, and style of speaking.
- 3. Essay:** After we spend a few days discussing the summer reading, you will be expected to write an analytical essay; the topic will be discussed in class beforehand.