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Dear Osceola Families:

The legislators in the state of Florida have passed legislation requiring educators to inform families about the possibility of “controversial” materials used in classes. As such, please be aware that students who intend to take AP English Language and Composition might encounter some suggestive language or ideas in the following novels:

<i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> by Thomas C. Foster	(Summer Assignment)
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	(School Year 2022-23)
<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller	(School Year 2022-23)
<i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O’Brien	(School Year 2022-23)

All of the above novels align with the AP English Language and Composition Course and Exam Description to which we are aligned throughout the course. Access to the AP English Language and Composition CED can be found here:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/course>

According to the Pinellas County School District Bylaws and Policies for Student Progression:

“It is the rightful duty of a teacher to encourage within students a never-ending search for truth in its many forms. Such a search may inevitably lead to areas of controversy. It is the belief of the School Board that discussion of such issues, dealing with local, State, national, and international affairs, shall be encouraged. Free, logical, and intelligent dialogue within the classroom is a necessity in the search for truth. Such freedom of expression should be viewed, not simply as a constitutional guarantee, but as a fundamental necessity for the successful practice of scholarship in a free society. All sides of such controversial issues shall be presented. It is recognized that the application of this principle in a K-12 program differs somewhat from its application at higher educational levels. Teachers shall consider the relative level of maturity of their students and their need for guidance in the study of such issues to arrive at objective and balanced views” (148).

It is with this at the forefront as well as the maturity of the students in the room that selections for the course are carefully considered and placed within the scope and sequence of the course's CED. All are available as open source documents via the internet, and all are additionally available at the school building by appointment. Should any student require an alternative assignment for any of the novels, please remit a request for said alternative 30 days prior to the start of the school year.

Please contact the school directly with any additional questions.

Respectfully,

English Department Teachers  
Osceola Fundamental High School