**Summer Reading Honors English IV**

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Contact: ckolich@sjakeepingfaith.org

Below is the recommended version, but it is not required. Simply recommended because its large pages are easier to annotate.

**Summary:** Rich in historical and religious references, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* chronicles the lives of American slaves. The parallel plots trace Eliza and Tom and their experiences of slavery in the South. Eliza, her son Harry, and husband George escape to freedom in Canada when they discover that Eliza will be sold and separated from Harry and George. Tom is also to be sold, but he chooses to sacrifice himself for the betterment of his slave owner and the slaves that will remain on the Shelby’s farm. Tom is sold several times and ends up with Simon Legree, a brutal cotton plantation owner. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is rich in Christian values and strong female characters. Stowe addresses the inhumanity of slavery and man’s moral obligation to put an end to slavery. Her strong female characters have also caught the attention of modern day feminists.

**Assessments:**
Annotations (completed before school starts in August)
Class Activities and Discussions
Test
Essay

**Annotations:**
- Please see General Summer Reading Rubric on SJA’s website.
- Concepts to keep in mind while annotating:
  1.) Your annotations should be focused on the lens through which you plan to write your compare/contrast essay (see essay prompt below).
  2.) Characterization - character patterns of behavior/development
  3.) Theme connections
    a.) Evil of slavery
    b.) Slavery vs. Christian values
    c.) Moral Power of Women
    d.) Moral Law vs. Civil Law
    e.) Universal Rights to Freedom
  4.) Faith connections
    a.) Christ-like and Biblical figures
    b.) Divine intervention
    c.) Redemptive Suffering and Love
    d.) Moral Law vs. Civil Law
    e.) Role of Faith
Uncle Tom’s Cabin Comparison/Contrast Essay:
We will start working on the essay once class begins, but keep prompt in mind while annotating this summer.

Prompt: You will choose a narrowed lens in which to compare and contrast both works of literature. This lens can consist of a common theme, motif, character type, archetype, relationship, etc.

○ If you took AP Lang junior year, you will compare and contrast Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass
  ■ (Your NLofFD books will be returned to you in class.)

○ If you took English III junior year, you will compare and contrast Uncle Tom’s Cabin and A Raisin in the Sun
  ■ (Make sure to have your dialectical journal handy while reading UTC. You will be provided with copies of the RITS once class begins.)