

## **Honors English IV**

### **Summer Reading**

**Mrs. Boland**

**Book: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

*Heart of Darkness* is often considered a long short story or novelette. The main character Marlowe relates to his friends an experience he had in the Belgian Congo where he ran a river steamer for a trading company. He had heard many stories about a trader named Kurtz, and Marlowe went in search of him. When he finds Kurtz, the man is living an abominable life based on exploiting the natives of the Congo. The story is Conrad's vision of the human capacity for despicable degrading of another human being.

After reading your novel, you will create an essay based on 2 themes from the novel: alienation and loneliness, and hypocrisy. In writing your essay, you will need one direct quote from the novel for each theme. The entire essay should be 200 words long, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced. You should create a title of your own for the essay.