

AP English Literature Summer Reading

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is an interactive, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info. All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the first day of school. I may not ask for a submission right away, but in case I do, you should be ready!

Assignment 1: Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

Do this first!! This book will help you improve your understanding of literature. **Read it closely and carefully, taking good notes! We will refer to the key ideas presented in it throughout the year.** As the description on Amazon says, “While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor.”

Assignment 2: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/search/?type=poe>

Much of our studies will revolve around poetry. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of “great poetry.” **Select a poem (from 1980 through today) that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP English Literature. You may choose from the website listed above or find a poem on your own. However, it cannot be a poem you have studied previously for school.** Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a “great” poem. I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no “wrong answer!” *You will turn this in as an assignment on Google Classroom.

Assignment 3: Choice Read of Literary Merit (Written Reflection Required)

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP English exam. Select a title to read over the summer. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with “literary merit,” although they never define that label. In preparation for our first week of written analysis, **you need to choose a novel or play to read this summer from the list provided (you cannot choose your summer reading novel from junior year or a text you have read for another class)** - these have all been included on the AP Test as works of merit. **Then, upon completion, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what the phrase “literary merit” means to you, and why this novel or play has it.** *You will turn this in as an assignment on Google Classroom.

Overall, you are required **to read two books** this summer in preparation for AP Lit. I urge you to read texts that are challenging, diverse, and different from what you normally read. I look forward to discussing your reading experience with you as we explore mankind’s journey of self-discovery in AP Literature and Composition during your senior year!

***Course Prerequisites:** Honors British Literature and/or Teacher Recommendation

Note: This class is a college level course to prepare students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam.

Questions/Concerns? Email me at cgracesqui@scs.edu

Texts to Choose From for Assignment 3

1722 – *Moll Flanders* – Daniel Defoe
1726 – *Gulliver's Travels* – Jonathan Swift
1811 – *Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen
1813 – *Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen
1847 – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë
1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë
1850 – *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne
1851 – *Moby Dick* – Herman Melville
1856 – *Madame Bovary* – Gustave Flaubert
1861 – *Great Expectations* – Charles Dickens
1866 – *Crime and Punishment* – Fyodor Dostoevsky
1869 – *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott
1877 – *Anna Karenina* – Leo Tolstoy
1891 – *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* – Thomas Hardy
1891 – *Billy Budd* – Herman Melville
1897 – *Dracula* – Bram Stoker
1891 – *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde
1899 – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin
1900 – *Lord Jim* – Joseph Conrad
1902 – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad
1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton
1915 – *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka
1925 – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf
1926 – *The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemingway
1930 – *As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner
1932 – *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley
1937 – *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston
1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck
1940 – *Native Son* – Richard Wright
1945 – *Animal Farm* – George Orwell
1948 – *Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton
1952 – *Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison
1952 – *Wise Blood* – Flannery O'Connor
1953 – *Go Tell it on the Mountain* – James Baldwin
1961 – *Catch-22* – Joseph Heller
1966 – *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys
1967 – *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok
1970 – *Grendel* – John Gardner
1982 – *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker
1990 – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
2001 – *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel
2017 – *Homegoing* – Yaa Gyasi

Suggested Plays:

Any Shakespearean play (except *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*)
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams
Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen
Fences – August Wilson
The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams
Hedda Gabler – Henrik Ibsen
The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
Our Town – Thornton Wilder
Pygmalion – George Bernard Shaw
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead – Tom Stoppard
Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett