

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION: 2023-2024 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Purpose: The purpose of the summer reading assignment is complex:

- To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts
- To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature- elements like theme, narrative, viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, etc.
- To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year
- To provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Lit exam next spring
- Last but not least to enrich your mind and stimulate your imagination

If you are willing and able to purchase your own copies of these books, you can annotate as you read and will have the books to refer to later in the year. If not, you can find these works in the local library or online. Although video versions of your book may exist and can be enjoyable, they differ greatly from the written word; it is better to rely on the works themselves. Some of the works may contain somewhat explicit language, sexual references, or mature subject matter. Feel free to make another choice, but please be advised that many of the works we read and discuss will have content such as this.

Grading: This will be your first formative grade for Quarter 1. Summer reading will be graded based upon your deeper insights on how literary/rhetorical devices, as well as excerpted evidence, add meaning to the text. Surface level interpretations as well as those found on websites such as Sparknotes are not considered 'A' level work. You will be rewarded for your own thoughts and ideas. All these assignments are due the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year for full credit. Assignments can be turned in until the deadline, the last day of the first week of school, for a late grade of 50%. After the deadline, no work will be accepted.

*****Plagiarism:** Any student found to have used another person's ideas or words including classmates or online resources will receive a zero for the assignment as well a parent conference.

Heading: Please use this MLA format heading for all papers.

Name

Teacher

AP Literature and Composition

Date

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: Choice Novel

For this assignment, please choose ONE of the novels below from the AP Literature reading list. The purpose of this assignment is to add to your reading experiences and to develop your critical thinking skills. In preparation for the AP Literature exam, you will need to be familiar with a wide range of literature. The more books you read of literary merit, the more prepared you will be. I encourage you to visit the College Board website to review sample questions, additional preparation suggestions, and lists of literary works that often appear on the exam.

*Please note some of these novels may contain mature themes.

TASK: As you read, please complete the accompanying chart (pages 3-5), which will analyze plot elements. Provide page numbers for reference. During the first week of school, you will discuss your book with your classmates and write an AP free response question on the book you read. This is part of your **FORMATIVE** grade.

Novel List:

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
King Lear by William Shakespeare
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Native Son by Richard Wright
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Fences by August Wilson
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
True Grit by Charles Portis
The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Alchemist by Paul Coelho
Dubliners by James Joyce
The Iliad by Homer
Paradise Lost by John Milton

TASK: Based on the novel you read, complete the following chart. Record neat notes for each section. You may type within this chart as well. Use the concepts and questions on the left to guide the ideas you write in the right column. Please make sure you provide textual evidence and write in such a manner that anyone could understand your written conclusions.

This assignment is 50% of your FORMATIVE summer reading grade. The other 50% will be based on an in-class discussion and written essay.

<p>PLOT: Exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement, resolution. Is the plot arranged in chronological order, or does it begin <i>in media res</i>, or a different progression? Does the plot contain foreshadowing or flashback? To what purpose? What is the nature of the conflict? Is it external or internal? How is the conflict resolved? Is there a denouement? If not, why is the story inconclusive?</p>	
<p>CHARACTERS: Who are the main characters in this story? Protagonist? Antagonist? What do you know about each character? How do you know this? Do characters change from the beginning to the end? How? What is the function of minor characters in this story? Are there any archetypes?</p>	

SETTING: Where and when does this story take place? What is the geographical setting? Over what period of time? What about weather or seasons? What is the historical or social environment being depicted? What background information is required to understand the situation? What details of the setting create an atmosphere or mood?

POINT OF VIEW: Is the point of view first person or third person? Is the narrator a participant or an observer in the story? If the POV is third person, is the narrator omniscient or limited omniscient? Does the POV shift during the story? If so, what is the impact?

SYMBOL: What object(s) does the writer seem to emphasize, through description, repetition, or placement in the story? What might be symbolic about the setting? What characters or aspects of a character might be symbolic? What events? Is there a recurring pattern, or motif, or images or events?

THEME: What is this work about? What issues are explored? What questions are raised by this work? What is this work really saying about _____(the subject or issue)? What possible answers does this work provide to the question? By examining the plot, characters, setting, point of view, and other literary elements, what can the reader glean about what it means to be a human being?