

2019 AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Your 2019 summer assignment for AP Literature requires that you read two pieces of fiction literature (one prose novel, one drama/play) that are considered to have “Literary Merit”(see online AP Literature novel lists).

Literary Merit Book #1 Prose Novel: Choose ONE book from a list of AP Literature books. Do not choose a novel you have already read or studied in school. Passing this class and AP test requires well-rounded readers and you’re doing yourself a disservice if you don’t read a new book.

Literary Merit Play/Drama Selection #2: Choose One play from a list of AP Literature books. Again, pick a play that you have not already read - Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth, Julius Caesar are common dramas previously read. Of course Shakespeare is a popular author, but you are not limited to only his work. There are many authors to choose from, from the ancient Greek writer Sophocles, to a more modern works of Arthur Miller. Pick one that interests you.

READING JOURNAL: Do this by hand. No typing. As you read your “literary merit” books, you need to keep a reading journal (or write in the novel if you own it) where you react, respond, and generally interact with your novel. Examples of what to include in your reading journal include:

Important plot, character, setting, theme details
Your reactions to events in the novel
Questions about what is happening and character motives
Important sentences, passages
Anything else that pops in your head as you read.

The reading journals should follow the progression of the novel and include page numbers connecting your thoughts to the location in the book. In other words, do this AS YOU READ; not after the fact. These do not need to be neat or even complete sentences, but they should be detailed and fill many pages by the time you’ve completed the novel. You should have evidence that you interacted with what you read. The reading journals are proof that you’ve actually read and will help you with the written assignment below.

Written Response: Once you are done with both novels, you need to type a short essay defining “literary merit.” How are your books worthy of the title “literary merit”? Your written response should use the two books as evidence to support your definition of “literary merit.” (Avoid simply looking for a definition online. Try and come up with a definition of your own.)

The Specifics:

- Three (3) complete pages
- Typed
- Double Spaced
- Size 12 Times New Roman or equivalent font.

You should be prepared to be an active participant in a Socratic Seminar focused on defining “literary merit” during the first week back to school and complete a timed-response to a previous released AP Literature Open Prompt (Q3).

The written response and reading journal/ annotations for your “literary merit” book are due during the first week of school.