

ENGLISH II PRE AP SUMMER READING

The ninth and tenth grade Pre-AP English classes are designed to prepare students for the demands of the eleventh and twelfth grade college-level Advanced Placement courses. The Advanced Placement Program® Course Description and Teacher's Guide published by The College Board describes a suitable candidate for Advanced Placement English as follows:

“Academically talented, imaginative students who read with finesse and write with clarity and style, who are curious and responsive to academic risk-taking, and who are not deterred by hard work.”

Please note that Pre-AP English II at Westlake High School has a summer reading requirement comprised of both a whole-class novel with a connected assignment *and* the independent reading of a self-selected text. We naturally encourage you to be voracious readers, so read as many books as you'd like. No excuses will be tolerated for not having completed these summer reading requirements and related assignments in the first week of class.

REQUIRED READING AND ASSIGNMENT *THE PEARL* BY JOHN STEINBECK

All students who sign up for English II Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) are required to read and annotate *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck over the summer. The annotations of *The Pearl* are imperative for the first assignments of the school year.

Directions: You must complete the following components.

1. Read *The Pearl*, a novella by John Steinbeck.
2. Annotate the entire novel in a manner that enhances your understanding (there are many meaningful ways to engage with a text; here are [six methods of annotating](#) you might consider). You are encouraged to notice the following:
 - a. Plot structure and development
 - i. Conflicts, internal and external
 - ii. Foreshadowing, etc.
 - b. Setting
 - c. Point of View
 - d. Tone
 - e. Characterization (direct and indirect)
 - f. Devices
 - i. Imagery
 - ii. Figurative language (simile, metaphor, etc.)
 - iii. Motifs
 - iv. Symbols
 - v. Word choice (diction)
 - vi. Sentence structure (syntax)
 - g. Theme

3. In the first week of class, there will be a reading check quiz on *The Pearl*.
4. At the end of your reading, create a list of 3 essential questions that Steinbeck wants his readers to consider or answer in response to his novel. Be prepared to provide the text evidence that acted as a source or impetus for your essential questions.
5. You will also be expected to write an analysis of a thematic idea in the novel.

***Note: You will **not** be able to refer to the novel for the reading check quiz, but you will be able to use your novel for the written thematic analysis. This is why annotation is important! ☺

SUMMER READING SELF-SELECTED BOOK

Since we read for a variety of reasons, you should choose another book to read this summer both for your own enjoyment and to challenge your normal reading habits (try a new genre, read a more challenging text, commit to a new author, etc.).

English II Pre-AP students will begin their fall independent reading after Labor Day. To assist you in your search for both a summer reading self-selected novel as well as the novel you intend to read beginning in September, here is a list of recommended titles.

You may read either a fiction or non-fiction text. As is always the case with your text selections, consider your own individual interests, as well as what feels like a comfortable stretch to you as you read independently. Please also keep your personal and family values in mind as you choose a title.

[Click here](#) for lists to assist you in your search.

We will read the following texts in class this year (either in literature circles or as a whole class). You may not choose these for your ISR, either over the summer or once we begin classes in the fall.

The Catcher in the Rye — J.D. Salinger

1984 — George Orwell

The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

Brave New World — Aldous Huxley

Fahrenheit 451 — Ray Bradbury

The Glass Castle — Jeannette Walls

A Long Way Gone — Ishmael Beah

Any books assigned in your 9th grade English class or a book you've already read

Please finish reading your self-selected book by the first day of school and be prepared to start reading your new ISR book after Labor Day.

Have a great summer, and we'll see you in August!

If you have any questions, you may email any of the following teachers:

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