

Dear Future AP Student,

Congratulations on taking your first AP English class here at West High! While we do a great deal of reading and discussing in this course, it is primarily a composition course, and with your commitment, the work we will do in this course will help you become a more skilled, more confident writer by the end of this year. This course will also prepare you to take the AP English Language and Composition exam. A successful score on this exam can earn you three hours of (free!) college credit.

We will begin school on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. By this time, we ask that you have thoroughly read and annotated Malcom Gladwell's book **Outliers**. Although it would behoove you to purchase a copy of the book, you are not required to buy your own copy. If you borrow a copy from your local library or from a friend, please take detailed notes on paper. If you wish to purchase a copy, you may buy a used copy from half.com or amazon.com, or you may purchase an electronic copy for your eReader or phone.

As you read *Outliers*, carefully annotate the text (or make notes in a journal) and consider the following questions to guide your reading:

- What is the author's main message, or thesis? What did Gladwell hope readers would understand after they've read his book?
- How does the author convey his message? Consider everything from the examples he chooses to illustrate his points to the way he organizes his entire book.
- Why does the author say it that way? - OR- What is the effect of these choices?

*As you formulate your responses to these questions, please identify **specific quotations** that would serve as evidence of the observations you have made. If you are using a hard copy of the text, please include page numbers in your citations; if you are using a digital (electronic) version of the book, please refer to the chapter number or percent in your citations.*

Within our first week of school, you will have an essay test over the book. You will be required to include blended quotations from the book in this essay.

Should you have questions, we can be reached via email over the summer, though it may take us some time to get back to you.

Junior year may be one of the most challenging times of your high school career, but it also offers the greatest opportunities for growth. We will do our best to support your efforts to excel and to make our class rewarding. We look forward to meeting each of you in August. Until then, enjoy your summer. Enjoy your reading.

Sincerely,

Ms. Farren
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Ms. Hill
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AP Language and Composition Summer Reading—Part Two

In addition to Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*, you will read Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. If you would like, you can check out a copy at the Wigwam before you leave for the summer. Read the summaries before or as you read each act. Obviously, you'll still need to read (and re-read) the text closely to answer the plot questions. **Write/type your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Each question should have a minimum of 1 blended quotation to earn full credit. All blended quotations should be highlighted (with a marker or on the computer). You will turn in your answers on the first day of school in August.**

Act One Summary

A few words about status and reputation in the Puritan community: the top of the ladder would be judges and reverends, next would be male landowners, then their wives, followed by unmarried girls who often work as servants, and lastly the black slaves. The play opens with the Reverend Samuel Parris who is praying for his daughter Betty who is sick on the bed. Her "illness" is very strange because she will not wake up and is unresponsive; even the local doctor has no idea what her sickness is. Trying to clear the possibility of witchcraft to ease the worries of the town and to maintain his reputation, Parris has sent for Reverend John Hale of Beverly who is known to be an expert in witches/witchcraft. Parris is concerned that Betty is bewitched because he caught her, his niece Abby, his slave Tituba, and a number of other female servants and little girls in the forest late at night dancing which is forbidden in the Puritan community. For the sake of his job and reputation, Parris interrogates Abby who tells him that Betty merely fainted when Parris caught them. But Parris begins to reveal more of what he saw them doing in the forest (which Abby can only deny) and even hints at Abby's poor reputation in the town because she has been fired by Goody (which is short for Goodwife a.k.a. Mrs.) Elizabeth Proctor seven months ago and has not been rehired by any other families.

They are interrupted by the Putnams who seem strangely excited that Betty is ill because their daughter Ruth (who was out dancing in the forest) is ill as well. Goody (Mrs.) Ann Putnam explains that she has lost several children in childbirth, so she sent Ruth to ask Tituba (who knows voodoo from Barbados) to conjure spirits and talk to the dead to find out who "murdered" all the babies in childbirth. For a moment, all the adults leave the room to say prayers with the congregation. When the girls are alone, they speak candidly about what they actually did in the forest, and Abby takes charge and threatens Mary Warren (the Proctor's current servant) from speaking the truth.

In walks John Proctor (Abby's former employer), and the other servant girls leave so that John and Abby are basically alone. When asked what has happened with Betty, Abby tells John the truth that no actual witchcraft took place. Abby tries to relive their past, secret love affair, but John refuses Abby's advances. Suddenly, Betty starts screaming, and the other adults return. Rebecca Nurse (71-year-old grandmother) enters, and Betty calms down in her presence. Rebecca suggests that in her vast experience of raising children and grandchildren, Betty and

Ruth are merely playing around; however, the fearful adults in the room do not believe her. Instead, they squabble over the many issues which set up the conflicts between certain characters in the play.

Finally, Hale arrives to examine Betty. Both John Proctor and Rebecca Nurse leave because they both know that the girls are merely pretending. Giles Corey (83-year-old farmer) mentions that his wife reads strange books in hopes that Hale can help him understand why. He can't give Giles a straight answer. Then, Hale interrogates Abby for clues as to the cause of the "illness." Abby denies everything and blames Tituba (how convenient for Abby that Tituba doesn't have any status as a slave) who is trying to tell the truth, but they won't listen. Ultimately, Tituba "confesses," followed by Abby's "confession" and accusations and Betty's echoing accusations.

Act One Plot Questions

1. Why is Reverend Parris so terrified by the events in Salem? What possible result does he fear for himself?
2. Why has Parris called Hale to Salem?
3. Although many of the adults are scared of witchcraft as the cause of Betty and Ruth's "illness," what really happened in the woods based on what Abby tells John Proctor in private, what the girls say to each other when the adults are gone, and what Parris admits to Reverend John Hale?
4. Why does Goody (Mrs.) Putnam want Tituba to "conjure" up spirits in the forest?
5. Why does Abby want Tituba to "conjure" up spirits in the forest?
6. What is revealed about Abby and John's past relationship and current situation when they speak privately?
7. What's the difference in how Abby treats her friends and how she behaves for the adults?
8. Over what do Thomas Putnam, John Proctor, and Giles Corey dispute?
9. What does Parris complain about to Putnam, Proctor, and Corey? What does this show about Parris' character?
10. What seems to motivate Hale? What are his experiences and his goals?
11. Tituba seems to "confess" to the men even though she has not done any witchcraft. Why? Go back and read the pages before her "confession" and determine who/what has given her ideas on what to say.
12. Abby miraculously and suddenly wants to join in on the "confessing." Why? What has Abby noticed about the way the men treat Tituba after she "confesses"?

Act Two Summary

The act begins as John comes home late after working his fields, and tensely, Elizabeth and he talk of the trials occurring in town. The servant girls are key "witnesses" in these trials, and Mary Warren has been going to town daily with the other servants to charge "witches" in court. When Mary Warren comes home from court, she gives Elizabeth a ragdoll and reports to

them what happened in court. Mary Warren is acting strangely—confident yet inconsistent—until she goes to her room. Elizabeth and John continue to argue when Hale arrives. Hale says that he comes on his own and wants to learn more about the Proctors and the Salem community. After answering several questions, John tells Hale that Abby admitted to him that there was no witchcraft before the hysteria started. Hale takes this information but then asks several more questions of the Proctors. Before Hale leaves, Francis Nurse (Rebecca’s husband) and Giles Corey come to the house to tell the Proctors that their wives (Rebecca Nurse and Martha Corey) have been jailed. Soon after, Ezekiel Cheever (a clerk of the court) has come to arrest Elizabeth. Proctor becomes furious with Hale for allowing the events to occur and is determined to get Mary Warren to go to court to testify.

Act Two Plot Questions

1. What is the current state of John and Elizabeth’s relationship?
2. How are the servant girls gaining more power?
3. Why does Elizabeth think John should go to town? Why is John hesitant to go?
4. What does Mary Warren give to Elizabeth? Who is watching Mary Warren make this object in court?
5. According to Elizabeth, what is Abby’s true objective in court?
6. Why has Hale come to the Proctors’ house?
7. What kinds of questions does Hale ask the Proctors to probe their moral character?
8. Why has Rebecca Nurse been put in jail?
9. Why has Martha Corey been put in jail?
10. Why is Elizabeth Proctor arrested? How is Abby involved in this charge?
11. What does John Proctor want Mary Warren to testify?

Act Three Summary

The act is set in the foyer hall just outside of the courtroom. At the beginning, the trial of Martha Corey can be heard when Giles speaks out and disrupts the court. Deputy Governor (Judge) Danforth and Judge Hathorne halt the proceedings of the court to find out the matter of this disruption. Giles Corey, Francis Nurse, and John Proctor have come to exonerate their wives Martha Corey, Rebecca Nurse, and Elizabeth Proctor. Giles explains to them that it is his own fault that he mentioned that his wife reads strange books, and Mary Warren (brought by John Proctor) tells the judges that she and the other girls have been lying. However, the judges are not convinced, so Proctor starts to explain what he knows. Judge Danforth tells John to go home, for Elizabeth is pregnant and will not be executed until after she gives birth. Regardless, John stays to plead for Martha and Rebecca as well.

Francis produces a deposition that has been signed by 91 reputable landowning people who all vouch for their wives. Instead of swaying Danforth, the deposition becomes a list for the next people to arrest for “examination.” Next, Giles produces a deposition stating that someone heard Putnam is “killing his neighbors for their land,” but Putnam denies the claim. The judges

demand that Giles give the name of his friend who said this, but he refuses and starts to lose control. Finally, John hands over a deposition that Mary Warren wrote that states that she and the other girls are lying. Danforth calls in Abby and the other girls to confront them, and of course, they deny and say that Mary Warren is lying. Danforth asks her to perform her antics, but she can't seem to do it now.

With no more options, John Proctor reveals to the court that he had an affair with Abby and that Abby is trying to kill his wife so that John will be with Abby. John tells Danforth to call in Elizabeth to confirm his testimony. When Elizabeth arrives, Danforth has John and Abby turn their backs so that neither can give Elizabeth any hints. Danforth asks Elizabeth if John and Abby ever had an affair, and Elizabeth (who would normally not lie) lies and says no because she thinks that she is protecting her husband. Instantly, Elizabeth is taken away, and Danforth no longer believes John's testimony.

Hale then speaks up and tries to convince Danforth that John is telling the truth, but Abby and the girls then "see" Mary Warren's spirit in the form of a cold wind and a yellow bird threatening them. They mimic everything that Mary Warren says to convince Danforth that she is possessing them. With the girls basically accusing Mary Warren as a witch, she folds and calls John Proctor the Devil's man. Overcome by the insanity of the court, John says "God is dead!" which the judges take for a sure sign of evil. They put both Giles and John in jail, and Hale quits the court.

Act Three Plot Questions

1. Why does Proctor choose to argue against the court even after finding out his wife is safe?
2. Considering what happens to the 91 names on Francis Nurse's deposition, what does this say about Danforth's attitude towards the court's authority?
3. According to Giles, what is Thomas Putnam's motivation/goal?
4. Why does Giles refuse to give the name of his source? What does this show about Giles' character?
5. What does John finally reveal to the court about him and Abby's past?
6. How does Danforth use Elizabeth to test John's claims?
7. How and why do Abby and the other girls begin to act strangely?
8. What does Mary Warren do to save herself?
9. Why does Hale quit the court?

Act Four Summary

This act is set on the morning that John Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, and Martha Corey are set to be hanged. Three months have passed since the last act, and the town is starting to fall apart as is evidenced by the number of wandering cows who no longer have caretakers because they are all in jail. Parris is a nervous wreck with the current climate of the town and reveals important information about the witch trials' star witness: Abby. He pleads for Danforth to

postpone the hangings, but he refuses. Hale returns and has been trying to convince the prisoners to confess to witchcraft. He even gets Elizabeth to talk to John, hoping that John will confess. Elizabeth and John are allowed to talk privately when she is finally able to say things to John that she could not before. John tells the judges that he will confess, but when they tell him that they will display his confession on the church door, John tears up the confession. John and Rebecca are taken to the gibbet and are hanged.

Act Four Plot Questions

1. What has happened in Andover?
2. Where has Abigail gone?
3. Why is Parris afraid?
4. Why does Danforth refuse to postpone the hangings?
5. Why has Hale returned to Salem?
6. Why is Hale asking Elizabeth to encourage John to lie?
7. What has happened to Giles Corey? Why?
8. What two things does Elizabeth say she is unable to do for John?
9. Why does Danforth want a written confession from John?
10. What is John's ultimate choice and why?