

Mansfield ISD

AP Literature & Composition



The AP English Literature & Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism.

At Mansfield ISD, our AP Literature teachers share your passion for knowledge and dedication to excellence, and they look forward to working with you next year. Statistics prove that reading widely and deeply improves test scores and increases student success both in college and in their future careers. In order to increase your chances for success as an AP student, it is important for you to stay intellectually engaged (especially during those long summer months of unstructured time) so that you continue to grow as a scholar. Therefore, MISD requires that all AP students participate in a summer reading study. The titles you read during the summer are a great way to begin the new school year with a shared experience for discussion and writing.

It is extremely important that you complete the required summer reading and assignment.

Your summer reading selection will lay the foundation for success on the AP exam. Additionally, you should be prepared to participate in written assignments, class discussions, and/or seminars related to the summer reading. As a district, Mansfield ISD embraces the lifelong love of reading and it is our goal to promote a passion for reading in our students.

Thank you for supporting reading and creating lifelong learners in our students.

Theresa Pollok
Secondary Literacy & Library Coordinator



Mansfield ISD

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Summer Reading

REQUIRED READING: Literary Criticism Focus

Reading in AP Literature is both wide and deep. This reading necessarily builds upon and complements the reading done in previous English courses so that by the time students complete this course, they will have read works from several genres and periods – from the 16th to the 21st century. Students should read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students reflect on the social and historical values it reflects and embodies. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context provides a foundation for interpretation, whatever critical perspectives are brought to bear on the literary works studied.

To continue this work, students must read **ONE** of the following novels and choose an excerpt from the novel to bring to your **second day of class**. The excerpt should demonstrate one of the following elements:

- Symbol
- Characterization
- Setting
- Theme/motif
- Language (“authors’ move”)

Make sure that your selected novel and your excerpt is annotated for the element listed above.

Plagiarism:

In order to fully prepare our students for expectations at the collegiate level, plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable.

Please refer to the following link for guidance: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

There are many resources available online, at the library, and in bookstores.

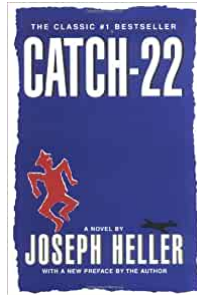
Select **ONE** title from the lists below.

Students may check out their choice book from the public library or purchase the book from a store/online.

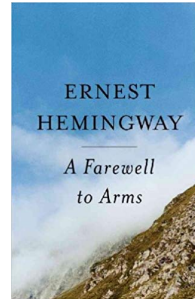
*Please note that some of the books on this list may contain mature language and/or situations.

Thematic Topic Focus: War and Peace

Catch 22
by Joseph Heller

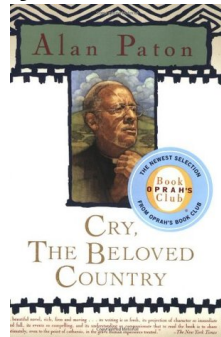


A Farewell to Arms
by Ernest Hemingway

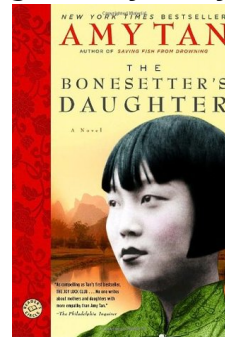


Thematic Topic Focus: Home and Family

Cry, the Beloved Country
by Alan Paton

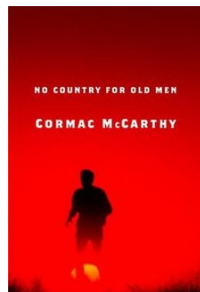


The Bonesetter's Daughter
by Amy Tan



Thematic Topic Focus: Tradition and Progress

No Country for Old Men
by Cormac McCarthy

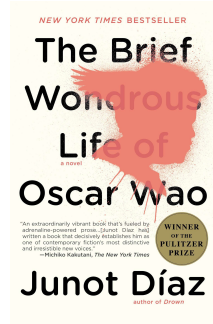


The Color Purple
by Alice Walker

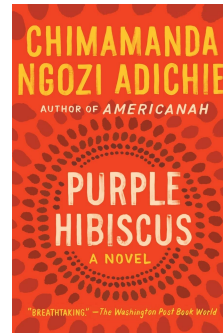


Thematic Topic Focus: Identity and Culture

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
by Junot Díaz

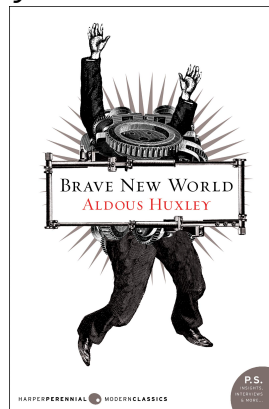


Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie

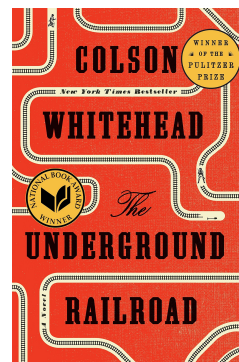


Thematic Topic Focus: Conformity and Rebellion

Brave New World
by Aldous Huxley

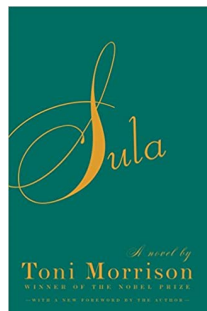


The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

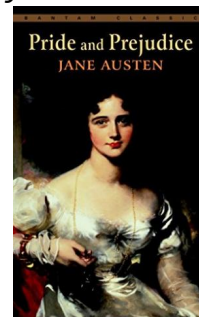


Thematic Topic Focus: Love and Relationships

Sula
by Toni Morrison



Pride and Prejudice
by Jane Austen



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Tasks/Timeline of Summer Reading & Assignments

- Second Day of Class: Annotated Excerpt Due
- Week 3: Written Analytical Paragraph
- Week 4: Q3 Writing
(this will mirror a Q3 prompt for the AP Literature exam)

Additional in-class assignments may include:

- *Small Group Discussion*
- *Socratic Seminar*