

AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER 2020 SUGGESTIONS:

Mrs. Richards -

As we enter into the summer months after an interesting end of the year there are several things I would like for you to consider doing to help prepare us for a great school year. The more you "do" the more we can do as a class when school starts.

There are three books I would like you to consider purchasing:

1. Strunk & White *Elements of Style*. Many of you who took Lang this past year probably still have your copy from school, which is cool, but you might want your own copy to take with you as you enter college. I have mine from my college year's still and I still learn things from it!
2. A copy of a book of literary merit. I am attaching the AP Suggested Reading List, which most of you have seen if you have had me as a teacher before. These are books that have been known to be on the AP exams in the past. The dates at the end of each title indicate the years the book was used on the exam. The titles that have the most dates after them are probably great books to know. Look through the list and choose a book you think you would enjoy for the WHOLE YEAR! We will be focusing on one book all year from a variety of perspectives and prompts. I recommend buying the book through half price books, I think you will want to write in it and mark it up as you read it. Over the summer do a "first draft" reading. Just become familiar with the story and characters and consider some of the ideas about literature below. I also recommend you have a composition notebook JUST for this book. You will be writing and thinking about it a lot. This book will be known as your **Book Of The Year**, or **BOTY** for short!:)

What is the Purpose of Literature? (A few ideas) How does your novel:

- Take a look at the human condition?
- Teach me things I don't know about the world?
- Teach me things I don't know about myself?
- Ask tough questions?
- Cause me to consider ideas I have never considered before? OR
- Look at things from a perspective I've never considered before?

3. Aristotle's *Poetics*. This is a thin book that is packed with theory. Aristotle had a lot to say about drama and what makes drama work in the world. We do have copies of it here at school and we'll be checking it out at the beginning of the year, but again, this is one of those books that if you could have your own copy, you would probably like it.

As the summer unfolds get a composition notebook (besides the one for your BOTY) that is devoted to AP Lit. Please make a section for notes, words to know (WTK for those of you that know me), and quick writes (QW). As you peruse these books at your leisure, write down any words that you do not know and look them up on dictionary.com; write down new ideas you have never thought of before; consider questions you might have; if you do any research on something of interest, write it down too. When school resumes, we will have plenty of opportunity to discuss some of your noticings.

Another thing that would be helpful is for you to read some poetry. I recommend the "Poem A Day" on the Poetry Out Loud website. There's also Poetry.org and the poetryfoundation.org. You could also listen to one of my favs, Billy Collins, do readings live on FB. Most students are super unfamiliar with poetry, so I don't want you to do anything more than just become acquainted with it. The way to do that is to read or listen to it more often. :) If one really strikes your fancy, write it down in your composition notebook and why you enjoyed it. What you noticed about it.

I will be uploading a "Critical Lens" document on our schools website. I would love it if you could read through it and be familiar with these concepts before the year starts. Again, take notes on what you notice or new ideas! (Also words you don't know!)

Last but not least, here is a fabulous website for literary terms, <https://literaryterms.net/>. Many of these terms should be familiar if you took Lang & Comp last year. But please review them and write down the ones you are uncomfortable with or don't know on 3x5 cards with their definitions. We will be looking for/at examples of them all year and figuring out WHY the author/writer uses them. :)

Don't do these things the last two days of summer. When you are bored and wondering what to do, just do something. Not for hours, maybe just minutes (like read a poem). I do not want you to labor over these things, but rather take them in chunks and absorb them, consider them, and be ready to discuss them when we meet in the fall.

I can not tell you how excited I am to be able to teach you about literature! This is probably my favorite course to teach. We are going to have so much fun! :)

Happy summer!

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