

WELCOME TO AP ENGLISH LITERATURE!

INSTRUCTOR: MRS. LAUREN BERRY lauren.berry@yesprep.org

FIRST ACTION REQUIRED: ACQUIRE A COPY OF A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

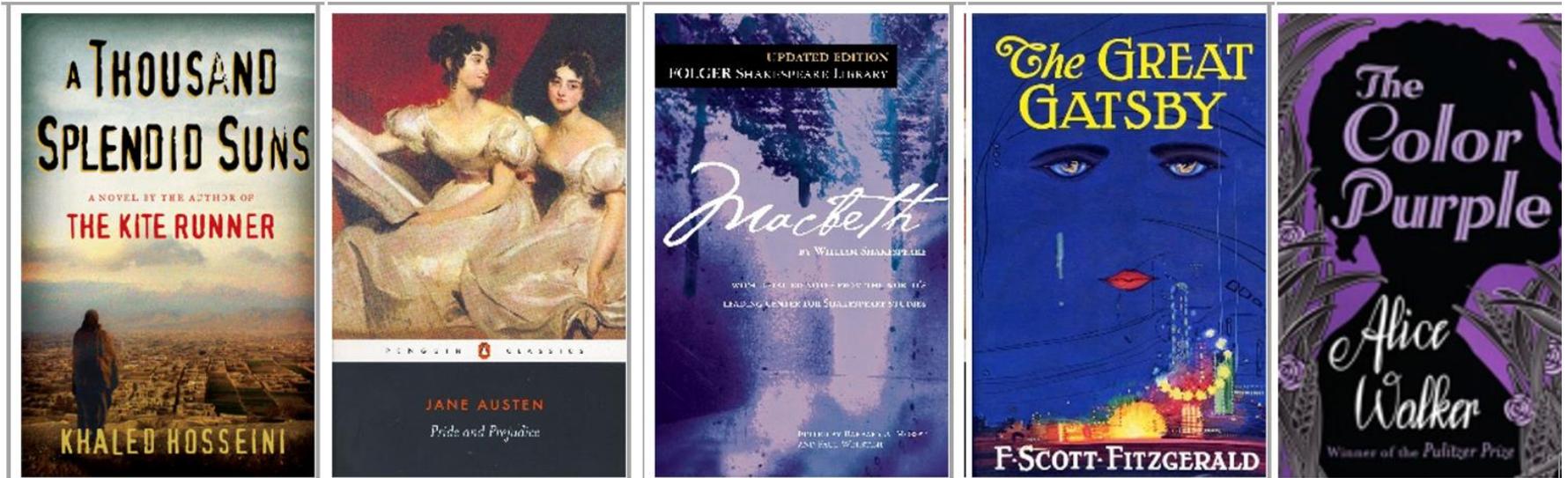
College-readiness starts now, scholars! You are responsible for acquiring *A Thousand Splendid Suns* before you leave for the summer.

Recommendations: sign out a free copy from Mrs. Berry in C125, download it from the Harris County public library, borrow it from an AP Lit veteran, buy it at Half-Price books, or order online from Amazon, Walmart, or Target.

Note: the remaining four texts (featured below) will be provided for you in August.

PLEASE BE ADVISED BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Students who fail to submit all parts of this assignment the first day of class signal their lack of seriousness and academic readiness for this challenging AP course, resulting in a conference to determine if AP Literature is the correct choice for you. This conference will involve parents.



AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to AP Lit! Next year will be my sixteenth year of teaching English and I cannot wait to share it with you. This question-and-answer style document contains critical information for your summer assignments that will set you up for one of the most challenging and interesting years of English yet! Buckle up, scholars.

NICE TO MEET YOU, MRS. BERRY! SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE AP LIT SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS?

- _____ 1. Read and annotate this entire document carefully. It is intensely detailed so that you can complete this assignment successfully on your own.
- _____ 2. Set personal goals for completion of the different components and calendar your own due dates.
- _____ 3. Complete flashcards for 24 literary devices; the last page of this document contains all flashcard expectations.
- _____ 4. Read all 415 pages of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and highlight any quotes / short passages that “speak” to you.
- _____ 5. Once finished, review your highlighted quotes and select the most critical 8 moments from the beginning to the end. Goal: 2 per section.
What do I mean by most critical? Which scenes have the most drama, move the plot forward, reveal character the most vividly, etc.
- _____ 6. Write 8 dialectical journal entries in which you examine the top 8 moments. Detailed instructions for how to do this are on pages 3-4. Rubric on page 5.

AND...WHAT EXACTLY IS A DIALECTICAL JOURNAL?

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the book. The process is meant to help you develop a deeper analytical understanding that goes beyond just a simple summary.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS WHILE I AM WORKING ON THIS OVER THE SUMMER?

First, **reread** this assignment sheet. It’s thorough so that almost all questions can be answered on your own! Secondly, phone a friend who is taking AP Lit or who has taken it with me and see if you can’t troubleshoot the issue independently. If you still have questions, I am here! Simply email me at lauren.berry@yesprep.org.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF WORKING HARD OVER THE SUMMER... WHEN I COULD BE DOING NOTHING AT ALL?

This assignment is your foundation for success in a year-long course, so you should do it to the absolute best of your ability. If you slack on this, you will make your experience in AP Lit more difficult... and you will likely fail the first six weeks (if not other grading periods) because you don’t know a text that we will analyze *all year*.

HOW DOES THIS ASSIGNMENT AFFECT MY LEARNING (AND MY GPA) EVEN AFTER THE FIRST MONTH OF SCHOOL ENDS?

I’m so glad you asked. Well. One of the three AP Lit test essays requires you to analyze a text from start to finish. We will analyze *A Thousand Splendid Suns* when we practice this essay style from August to May. But really-- if you can’t successfully read and write about one novel over the summer, how can you expect to perform better during the school year when you have coursework for seven other classes? Believe me-- this course is going to be rigorous. Don’t make it harder on yourself!

GOOD TO KNOW! BUT WHAT IS THE BOOK ABOUT?

From the book → “Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever-escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul-they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.”

WITH SO MANY CHOICES, WHY DID YOU PICK THIS BOOK FOR US?

Not only is it a page-turner, but students who analyzed this book for the open-ended essay scored higher on the Fall CA than peers who chose a different text. Students tell me every year that this is one of their favorite books of all time! It’s truly wonderful. You will find that you fly right through it!

HOW WILL YOU GRADE US?

The rubric is included in this document and I have provided expectations for the flashcards. Read them carefully; failure to do so will result in points lost.

OK. LET'S GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING. HOW DO I CHOOSE WHICH PASSAGES TO HIGHLIGHT AS I AM READING THE NOVEL?

Look for quotes that are the most critical to the plot. Consider: Which stir your soul the most? Which are deeply memorable? You might record:

- Passages that remind you of your own personal life experiences
- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot that are unexpected
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- Events you find surprising; or ones that make you think / rethink the book
- Passages that are written in a beautifully poetic and impressive style
- Passages that effectively reveal the essence of a character or setting

SO AFTER I FINISH THE BOOK, LOOK THROUGH EVERY QUOTE THAT I'VE MARKED, AND CHOOSE THE 8 MOMENTS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE BOOK'S THEME, HOW DO I START THE JOURNALS? WHAT IS THE GOAL OF EACH RESPONSE?

For each quote, select one of the types of dialectical responses below. Read the expectations for each type and think about these as you read the novel.

RESPONSE TYPE	LITERARY ANALYSIS	QUESTION	CONNECTION	REFLECTION
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO EXACTLY?	Select a moment with a literary device that really sings (a beautiful description, a profound metaphor, surprising sentence structure, etc.) and write an analysis of one literary device and how it characterizes the people in the book and communicates deeper meaning for Hosseini's audience.	Offer an open-ended, philosophical question that arises from reading a given passage. (This question should not be one that a reader can easily answer.) Then, provide your best hypothesis and support it with logical details.	Make a connection to another moment within the text, another work of literature, a moment in history, or a time in your life when you experienced the same emotion or event.	Think deeply about what the passage means in a universal sense - not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature? What judgements does the author have about mankind? What do you think of those judgements?

I THINK I GET IT... BUT CAN YOU GIVE ME SENTENCE STEMS TO GET ME STARTED?

RESPONSE TYPE	LITERARY ANALYSIS	QUESTION	CONNECTION	REFLECTION
WHAT SENTENCE STEMS MIGHT WE USE?	On page ____, Hosseini uses _(literary devices)_ in order to show that _(character)_ is _(personality traits)_. When Hosseini employs _(device), he reveals ____ about _setting/character_.	When I read page ____, I wondered... The question raised from page ____ is... Readers will be inspired to ask... When one considers this event, she might be curious about...	The scene from page __ connects to an earlier / later scene when... These scenes are linked because... If one compares ____ and ____, they learn that...	Ultimately, Hosseini wants readers to know... Readers learn ____ about the human condition...

CAN I USE MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE TYPE FOR A JOURNAL? LIKE, COULD I USE QUESTION AND REFLECTION FOR 1 JOURNAL?

You can as long as you develop each thoroughly. It's always better to deeply analyze one than to briefly explain two. Also, each quote counts as 1 journal— not each response type.

SO HOW LONG IS EACH DIALECTICAL JOURNAL THEN?

For reference, the exemplar in this document is around 225 words and the rubric states that the highest scoring journals will be 200+ words in length. There's no need to write for more than 300 words though. One year, a student completed 109 journals, but that's extreme and I do NOT recommend it. #qualityoverquantity ☺

DO MY JOURNALS NEED TO BE TYPED OR CAN THEY BE HANDWRITTEN?

There are still unknowns about the Fall semester, but this work will likely be typed and submitted via Microsoft Teams. If you're in person, I will accept handwritten as well. When I receive more information about our start date, I will create the assignment with a firm due date. Until then, expect for the work to be due the first day of class.

WHICH OF THE RESPONSE TYPES SHOULD WE USE WHEN WE WRITE? IS ANY ONE BETTER THAN THE OTHER?

As per the rubric, you **MUST use all four**—mix it up! As you write, remember that the most important thing is that your journals are specific, detailed, and convincing. The more analytical and philosophical, the higher your score. The more based in summary, the lower your score will be. Here are some trends based on previous students' work.

GENERALLY SCORED IN THE 70-80% RANGE	GENERALLY SCORED IN THE 80-90% RANGE	GENERALLY SCORED IN THE 85-100% RANGE
Summarize the words, ideas, or actions in the quote Give personal reactions to a quote, but no analysis about the choices that Hosseini made and his intended effects Discuss what it reminds you of from your own life Identify connections between characters or events	Evaluate an event from the point of view of multiple characters Analyze specific, thematic connections to a different literary text, film, song, or historical event Agree or disagree with a character and provide rationale	Analyze author's use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery) and how they contribute to theme Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text and answer them persuasively Analyze one passage's relationship to the story as a whole

CAN YOU SHOW ME AN EXAMPLE OF AN INEFFECTIVE RESPONSE THAT WOULD NOT PASS?

<p>Page 1. Quote: "Nana cherished each blue-and-white porcelain piece, the grace curve of the pot's spout, the hand-painted finches and chrysanthemums, the dragon on the sugar bowl, meant to ward off evil. It was this last piece that slipped from Mariam's fingers, that fell to the wooden floor boards of the <i>kolba</i> and shattered."</p> <p>(Literary Analysis): It's likely that the tea set is an important symbol that adds meaning to the novel. (Connection): I have treasures that matter. I'd be devastated if they broke.</p>

Why would the literary analysis part of the response not pass? For one, it's far too brief. It uses two codes, but doesn't ever develop a convincing thought on either. For example, the literary analysis response doesn't explain how the tea set functions as a symbol and I am left to wonder: What does it symbolize? How does it symbolize that? What other associations might one have with tea sets? Dragons? Finches? Chrysanthemums? The color blue? What is in store for the character now that this symbol has broken?

Why would the connection part of the response not pass? It is too underdeveloped because it lacks details. I am left to wonder: What treasures do you have? What significance do they have to you? What is the history behind these treasures? How might you react if a family member broke them? What measures do you take to prevent damage to them?

CAN YOU SHOW ME AN EXAMPLE OF AN EXEMPLAR THAT WOULD EARN A 100%?

<p>Page 1. Quote: "Nana cherished each blue-and-white porcelain piece, the grace curve of the pot's spout, the hand-painted finches and chrysanthemums, the dragon on the sugar bowl, meant to ward off evil. It was this last piece that slipped from Mariam's fingers, that fell to the wooden floor boards of the <i>kolba</i> and shattered."</p> <p>(Literary Analysis): In the <i>kolba</i>, a dusty shack outside of the glamour and wealth of town, this impoverished mother and daughter have just one treasure: an heirloom tea set. For them, the tea set is a symbol of a life of wealth and security that is no longer possible. Mariam and Nana are woefully dependent on the affluent Jalil Khan, yet this tea pot is the one possession that Nana owns which represents her own independent source of power. Also, a blue dragon which is "meant to ward off evil" is painted across a sugar bowl, which symbolizes a fierce guard for their literal and figurative sweetness. For these women, sugar might be a luxury because they have so little. I imagine them rationing out the delicacy. Also, sugar is pure white and therefore innocent, unlike the women's reputations in this society. Mariam is a "harami," a bastard child, who is treated with disdain even from her mother. In fact, this fragile tea set is much like the women's lives—able to be broken by the slightest force. On this fateful day, Mariam's safety and protection "slipped" and "shattered" when she broke the one item that represented her mother's connection to a more financially and socially secure past and a hope for a better future. From now on, their lives will be fractured, graceless, and vulnerable to harm.</p>

Why would this earn a 100%? This passage is well-developed at over 200 words. It has specific details, many abstract concepts (innocence, power, safety, fate, dependence, vulnerability, etc.), and takes time to really explain symbolic associations with the tea set (fragility, wealth, etc.). It uses interesting and academic vocabulary (disdain, fractured, heirloom, etc.) that doesn't seem forced. The logic of this analysis is convincing and clear, and there are also stylistic gestures. For example, the dash adds interesting drama.

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* Dialectical Journals Rubric Name:**

Score	Selection of Quotes	Level of Insight	Depth of Development
(95%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 8 moments are critical to the novel Quotes have a persuasive relationship to theme Impressively comprehensive selections Responds to 100% of the book; quotes are selected from the beginning, middle, and end *Suggestion: pick 2 from each section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persuasive Sophisticated Grounded in analysis Inspiring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly extensive details Elaborate and sophisticated in argument; reader is convinced Uses a variety of the four response types in the 8 journals All journals are 200+ words
(85%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the 8 moments are critical to the novel Quotes have an adequate connection to theme Generally wide-ranging selections Responds to at least 85% of the book but may leave out thoughts on the book's final scenes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable Acceptable Mostly analytical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable length Sufficient use of specific detail Clear logic and evidence used Uses a variety of the four response types in the 8 journals Most journals are 200+ words
(75%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the 8 moments are critical to the novel Quotes have an implied connect to theme Noticeably unbalanced selections Responds to at least 75% of the book; inadequate analysis of the book as a whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plausible Superficial Mostly summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited analytical discussion Insufficient detail; unclear at times Surface-level analysis at times Not all response types are used in the 8 journals; unbalanced Few journals are 200+ words
(65%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few of the 8 moments are critical to the novel Quotes are consistently unrelated to theme Severely unbalanced selections Responds to at least 65% of the book; it is clear the student did not read the full book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccurate Incomplete Limited to summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unacceptably brief responses Consistent lack of specific detail Possible misreads of the text No response types listed and/or strongly unbalanced response types All journals are under 200+ words

THEME = a universal truth statement that reads like a life lesson. Ex: power corrupts the heart of the wicked.

Note: Work that goes above beyond will earn a full 100%. Work that is incomplete may earn below a 65%.

Note: Work that does not include page numbers, full quotes, or response codes will have points deducted.

Literary Device Flashcards: These are the top 24 literary devices that you will see on all unit exams, common assessments, and the actual AP Lit test. For each, write the name of the literary device on one side of the index card. On the other side, write the definition of the literary device and one example.

Where should the examples come from? It would be great AP Lit test prep if your examples came from *A Thousand Splendid Suns*—but it is not mandatory; your examples can be from books you've read, the internet, or your own creative mind. You may write more than one example if you find it useful—and why not? You will study these flashcards all year!

1. Alliteration	7. Apostrophe	13. Dramatic Irony	19. Personification
2. Allusion	8. Euphemism	14. Situational Irony	20. Tone
3. Analogy	9. Foreshadowing	15. Verbal Irony	21. Simile
4. Anecdote	10. Hyperbole	16. Juxtaposition	22. Syntax
5. Aphorism	11. Imagery	17. Metaphor	23. Symbol
6. Diction	12. Understatement	18. Paradox	24. Rhetorical Question

FRONT SIDE OF THE FLASHCARD	BACK SIDE OF THE FLASHCARD
PARADOX	<p>The use of concepts or ideas that are contradictory to one another, yet, when placed together hold significant and true value on several levels.</p> <p>Ex: I know one thing—that I know nothing.</p> <p>Ex: Here are the rules: ignore all rules.</p>

Both the literary device flashcards and the journals are due on the first day of AP Lit class.

