

Summer Reading and Writing for AP English Literature and Composition

Dear AP English Student,

As you know, your work in connection with AP English actually begins over the summer with your summer reading. You will read all of the following:

1. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (**NOT** *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells!)
2. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
3. A novel of your choice (see requirements below)

The following authors are among those whose works have the literary merit expected in an AP English course:

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| Chinua Achebe | William Faulkner | Gabriel Garcia Marquez |
| Isabel Allende | Gustave Flaubert | Cormac McCarthy |
| Julia Alvarez | E. M. Forster | Carson McCullers |
| Kingsley Amis | Nadine Gordimer | Herman Melville |
| Margaret Atwood | Graham Greene | N. Scott Momaday |
| Jane Austen | Thomas Hardy | Toni Morrison |
| James Baldwin | Nathaniel Hawthorne | Haruki Murakami |
| Honore de Balzac | Joseph Heller | Iris Murdoch |
| Saul Bellow | Khaled Hosseini | Tim O'Brien |
| Emily Bronte | Zora Neale Hurston | Vladimir Nabokov |
| Charlotte Bronte | Aldous Huxley | John Updike |
| Pearl Buck | Kazuo Ishiguro | Philip Roth |
| Willa Cather | Henry James | Salman Rushdie |
| Kate Chopin | Ha Jin | Jane Smiley |
| Joseph Conrad | James Joyce | Alexander Solzhenitsyn |
| James Fenimore Cooper | Thomas King | Jonathan Swift |
| Tsitsi Dangarembga | Barbara Kingsolver | Amy Tan |
| Edwidge Danticat | John Knowles | Leo Tolstoy |
| Daniel Defoe | Jhumpa Lahiri | Ann Tyler |
| Charles Dickens | Margaret Laurence | Kurt Vonnegut |
| Isaak Dinesen | D. H. Lawrence | Alice Walker |
| Fyodor Dostoyevsky | Sinclair Lewis | Edith Wharton |
| Theodore Dreiser | Naguib Mahfouz | Eudora Welty |
| George Eliot | Bernard Malamud | Thomas Wolfe |
| Louise Erdrich | Thomas Mann | Virginia Woolf |

Please choose a novel of at least 200 pages (or a combination of short novels). Some of these authors may also write in other genres (poetry, autobiography, etc.), so be sure that your chosen work is truly a novel. Also, please choose a novel you will feel comfortable reading: good writers often deal with controversial subjects, so do your research if you or your parents have concerns that way. Broaden your experiences in reading: your choice **should NOT be** a book you have previously read for a class, for summer reading, or on your own.

Expectations:

- Read closely and critically. Any type of evaluation (quiz, test, essay, presentation, project, etc.) in the fall is fair game to determine the depth of your reading. If you cannot or will not read these novels independently, then please consider whether AP English Literature is the correct course placement for you.
- Annotate your novels. **I should not see anyone who has a novel free of writing.** If you must take your novels out of the library, then use post-it notes to get the job done. If you read on your iPad or similar device, annotate the text electronically. Come to class in the fall having thought deeply about the text. If you do not know how to annotate, [click here](#) for an instructional YouTube video. Or, if you're old school, [click here](#) for the classic 1941 essay on annotation by Mortimer Adler:

If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me via email at rbenz@cadets.com.