



## ENG 402: Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition Summer Reading

Dear students,

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition! You have chosen a challenging, but rewarding path. This course is for students with intellectual curiosity, a strong work ethic, and a desire to learn. I know all of you have been well prepared for the “Wonderful World of Literature” in which we will delve into a wide selection of fiction, drama, and poetry.

In order to prepare for the course, you will complete a Summer Reading Assignment prior to returning to school in the fall. Your summer assignment has been designed with the following goals in mind: to help you build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts; to give you, when you enter class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature – elements like narrative viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, point of view, etc.; to set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read this year; to provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Literature Exam next spring; and last but not least, to enrich your mind and stimulate your imagination.

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment (or anything else pertaining to next year), please feel free to email me ([esargent@vdoh.org](mailto:esargent@vdoh.org)). I hope you will enjoy and learn from your summer reading. I am looking forward to seeing you in class next year! Have a lovely summer!

### Read:

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston (Please note: this text briefly mentions sexual assault and includes references to domestic violence)

- Please annotate as you read (annotations will be due on our first day of school)
- Because Hurston uses dialect and colloquial language in her writing, listening to the audiobook version is recommended along with reading the text. You can check out a free audio version of this novel through your local public library. Moreover, you may be able to find audio versions of this text on YouTube. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the audiobook from audible.

One (1) additional text from the attached AP reading list

- Please annotate as you read (annotations will be due on our first day of school)
- Note: you may also want to select a text that does NOT appear on the list. If this is the case, please email Mr. Sargent for approval before reading.

\*\*Parents and students are encouraged to research individual choice texts, as the content varies. Common Sense Media ([www.common sense media.com](http://www.common sense media.com)), Goodreads ([www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)), and Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)) are excellent resources to consult and will help in determining if the content of a text aligns with your family’s individual media guidelines. If you are unsure of what book you may enjoy, ask a member of the English Department—we love talking about books, and can recommend a text from this list based on your interests! Parents are encouraged to read the texts in tandem with their child, as this creates the opportunity for dialogue about what they are reading and how they are responding to the texts.\*\*

**Some of the AP selections may contain any of the following:** sexual assault, domestic violence, death by suicide, graphic violence. Please RESEARCH your novel before making a final selection.

**Academic Integrity:** *As with every class assignment, all summer reading work should be original – do not consult online resources, or collaborate with peers on this assignment. Give yourself plenty of time to complete this assignment in a thoughtful and thorough manner. I am interested in your original thoughts and ideas, not another person’s insights or observations.*

**Write:**

1. A 500-word essay based upon the following AP prompt on **either** text:
  - o *In a well-written essay, analyze how [author] utilizes literary elements and techniques to [convey/portray/develop a thematic, topical, or structural aspect of the passage that is complex and specific to the novel].*
2. On the first day of class, bring at least one complete college application essay. We will begin conferencing these essays upon your return.

If you have the time and inclination, please select additional summer reading from the attached list of College Board referenced works. Note: you will not need to know every work listed, but being familiar with as many great works as possible will only help you on the AP Literature & Composition exam.

Mr. Sargent

**AP Selections:**

*The Age of Innocence*, Edith Wharton  
*All the King’s Men*, Robert Penn Warren  
*Another Country*, James Baldwin  
*As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner  
*Atonement*, Ian McEwan  
*Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, James Weldon Johnson  
*Beloved*, Toni Morrison  
*Black Boy*, Richard Wright  
*Bleak House*, Charles Dickens  
*The Blind Assassin*, Margaret Atwood  
*Bone: A Novel*, Fae M. Ng  
*Catch-22*, Joseph Heller  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Tennessee Williams  
*Ceremony*, Leslie Marmon Silko  
*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker  
*Crime & Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky  
*Doctor Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe  
*A Doll’s House*, Henrik Ibsen  
*Dreaming in Cuban*, Christina Garcia  
*East of Eden*, John Steinbeck  
*Emma*, Jane Austen  
*The Fall*, Albert Camus  
*A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway  
*500 Words or Less*, Juleah del Rosario

*A Gathering of Old Men*, Ernest Gaines  
*Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens  
*Go Tell it on the Mountain*, James Baldwin  
*Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad  
*The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton  
*Jude the Obscure*, Thomas Hardy  
*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini  
*A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest Gaines  
*Light in August*, William Faulkner  
*Long Day's Journey into Night*, Eugene O'Neill  
*Mrs. Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf  
*My Antonia*, Willa Cather  
*Native Son*, Richard Wright  
*Old School*, Tobias Wolff  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Out of Africa*, Isak Dinesen  
*The Plague*, Albert Camus  
*A Room with a View*, E.M. Forster  
*Sister Carrie*, Theodore Dreiser  
*Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut  
*The Stranger*, Albert Camus  
*Sula*, Toni Morrison  
*The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway  
*A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley  
*Tracks*, Louise Erdrich  
*Typical American*, Gish Jen  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe  
*We Were the Mulvaney's*, Joyce Carol Oates  
*Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte  
*The Zoo Story*, Edward Albee