

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. A **novel** of your choice: No more than two people on the same novel; sign up [here](#).

Please choose a novel of at least 200 pages (or a combination of short novels). It should be a novel of literary merit, preferably by an author from the list below. Some of these authors may also write in other genres (poetry, autobiography, etc.), so be sure that your chosen work is truly a novel. 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.

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

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

NOT ALLOWED: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Great Gatsby* by F.Scott Fitzgerald, or *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev. These novels are already in the school-year curriculum.

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 electronically, 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.