
English IV AP Summer Reading 2023
Tomball Memorial High School - Tomball ISD

Dear Students,

We are so excited to have you in our AP English/Language Arts program! Tomball ISD endorses a summer reading program for all students enrolled in advanced English courses grades 6-12. This summer we are offering a variety of novel choices from which to choose. You will have until **August 28th** to complete the novel of your choice to be prepared for the discussions and assessments that will take place during the school day.

The selections on the summer reading list have been chosen to encourage the enjoyment of reading and to prepare students for the study of literature. Upon returning to school in the fall, students will be engaged in inquiry circles with classmates who selected the same book. In order to be prepared to discuss the book in such a setting, students must read the book through a critical lens and be prepared to share insights and original observations discovered while reading.

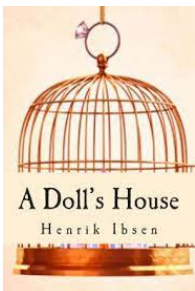
We realize that changes do occur during the summer, and sometimes students find themselves switching schools due to a recent move. **Should you find that you will be attending a different Tomball ISD school, please check with that campus for their reading list, as that campus may have a different reading list than what appears on this page.**

For record keeping purposes, please scan this QR Code or click this link to complete a Google Form which will serve as your acknowledgment that you received this information and that you understand the expectations for summer reading.

<https://forms.gle/gB4xbXQeQzv8oUPF8>

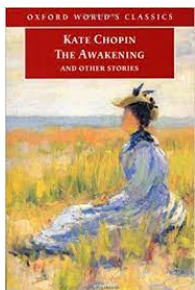


Below is a list of books from which you may choose for your suggested summer reading:



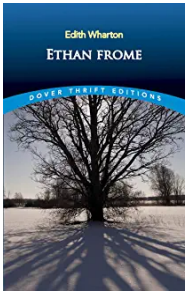
***A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen**

Henrik Ibsen's ground-breaking play explores the struggle between independence and security. While often viewed as an early feminist work, the story of Nora and Torvald rises above simple gender issues to ask the bigger question of identity. Nora's struggle and ultimate realizations about her life invite all of us to examine our own lives and find the many ways we have made ourselves dolls and playthings in the hands of forces we believe to be beyond our control. As you read, focus on Nora's characterization and her relationship to her husband, Torvald Helmer, and to other characters – how do those relationships differ, and what do they reveal about Nora? Take notes on the subtle clues that lead us, and her, to the realization of her true identity.



***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

The Awakening, originally titled A Solitary Soul, is a novel by Kate Chopin, first published in 1899. Set in New Orleans and the Southern Louisiana coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South. It is one of the earliest American novels that focuses on women's issues without condescension. It is also widely seen as a landmark work of early feminism, generating mixed reaction from contemporary readers and criticism. The novel's blend of realistic narrative, incisive social commentary, and psychological complexity makes The Awakening a precursor of American modernist literature.



***Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton**

Ethan Frome is set in the fictional New England town of Starkfield, where a visiting engineer tells the story of his encounter with Ethan Frome, a man with a history of thwarted dreams and desires. The accumulated longing of Frome ends in an ironic turn of events. The engineer, staying temporarily in town while he works nearby, is the narrator who tells the story of Frome. His initial impressions are based on his observations of Frome going about his mundane tasks in Starkfield, and something about him catches the eye and curiosity of the visitor, but no one in the town seems interested in revealing many details about the man or his history - or perhaps they are not able to. The narrator ultimately finds himself in the position of staying overnight at Frome's house in order to escape a winter storm, and from there he observes Frome and his private circumstances, which he shares and which triggers other people in town to be more forthcoming with their own knowledge and impressions.

The following ideas are suggested in order to help students engage in **active reading**:

In his essay "How to Mark a Book," Mortimer Adler explains that reading is a "conversation between you and the author."

Adler writes: "Why is marking up a book indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked book is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thoughts you had, or the thoughts the author expressed."

"There are all kinds of devices for marking a book intelligently and fruitfully. Here's the way I do it":

- Underlining (or highlighting): of major points, of important or forceful statements
- Vertical lines at the margin: to emphasize a statement already underlined
- Star, asterisk, or other doo-dad at the margin: to be used sparingly, to emphasize the ten or twenty most important statements in the book (You may want to fold the bottom corner of each page on which you use such marks. It won't hurt the sturdy paper on which most modern books are printed, and you will be able take the book off the shelf at any time and, by opening it at the folded-corner page, refresh your recollection of the book.)
- Numbers of other pages in the margin: to indicate where else in the book the author made points relevant to the point marked; to tie up the ideas in a book, which, though they may be separated by many pages, belong together
- Circling or highlighting of key words or phrases
- Writing in the margin, or at the top or bottom of the page, for the sake of: recording questions (and perhaps answers) which a passage raised in your mind; reducing a complicated discussion to a simple statement; recording the sequence of major points through the book

If marking your book is not a possibility, there are some other options:

- You can use sticky notes. Place these on the pages/paragraphs where you would underline or highlight and write out your thoughts or ideas on the note.
- Write out notes on paper and keep the paper inside the book. Include page numbers with comments/notations so that you will remember what prompted your thinking.

Should any questions arise, please contact:

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