

AP English Literature Summer Reading

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is a fun, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info. All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the first day of school. I may not ask for a submission right away, but in case I do, you should be ready! You are expected to do ALL THREE ASSIGNMENTS!

Assignment 1: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/search/?type=poem>

Some of our studies will revolve around poetry. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of “great poetry.” Select a poem that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP English Literature. You may choose from the website listed above or find a poem on your own. Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a “great” poem. I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no “wrong answer!”

Assignment 2: Choice Read of Literary Merit (Written Reflection Required) Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP English exam. Select a title to read over the summer. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with “literary merit,” although they never define that label. Choose a novel or play to read this summer that, in your opinion, has literary merit. Then, upon completion, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what that phrase means to you, and why this novel or play has literary merit. Please do not re-read something or choose something below your reading level.

Assignment 3: Choice Read #2

In preparation for our first week of written analysis, you need to select one title off of the approved list and read it over the summer. Some titles are very long, but others are quite short, so there is no reason not to complete this assignment. You must choose from the provided list. Write a fifteen-entry dialectical journal in response to this novel.

Overall, you are required to read two books this summer in preparation for AP Lit. I urge you to read texts that are challenging, diverse, and different from what you normally read.

Suggested Books

- 800 BC – *The Iliad* - Homer
- 1722 – *Moll Flanders* – Daniel Defoe
- 1726 – *Gulliver’s Travels* – Jonathan Swift
- 1749 – *Tom Jones* – Henry Fielding
- 1811 – *Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen
- 1813 – *Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen
- 1823 – *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley
- 1838 – *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens
- 1847 – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë
- 1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë
- 1851 – *Moby Dick* – Herman Melville
- 1856 – *Madame Bovary* – Gustave Flaubert

1861 – *Silas Marner* – George Eliot
1866 – *Crime and Punishment* – Fyodor Dostoevsky
1869 – *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott
1871 – *Middlemarch* – George Eliot
1877 – *Anna Karenina* – Leo Tolstoy
1881 – *The Portrait of a Lady* – Henry James
1884 – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain
1886 – *The Mayor of Casterbridge* – Thomas Hardy
1891 – *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* – Thomas Hardy
1891 – *Billy Budd* – Herman Melville
1895 – *Jude the Obscure* – Thomas Hardy
1897 – *Dracula* – Bram Stoker
1891 – *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde
1898 – *The Turn of the Screw* – Henry James
1899 – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin
1900 – *Sister Carrie* – Theodore Dreiser
1900 – *Lord Jim* – Joseph Conrad
1902 – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad
1903 – *The Call of the Wild* – Jack London
1906 – *The Jungle* – Upton Sinclair
1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton
1915 – *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka
1916 – *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* – James Joyce
1920 – *The Age of Innocence* – Edith Wharton
1924 – *A Passage to India* – E.M. Forster
1925 – *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald
1925 – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf
1926 – *The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemingway
1930 – *As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner
1932 – *Light in August* – William Faulkner
1932 – *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley
1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck
1940 – *The Power and the Glory* – Graham Greene
1940 – *Native Son* – Richard Wright
1945 – *Animal Farm* – George Orwell
1947 – *All the King's Men* – Robert Penn Warren
1948 – *Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton
1949 – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell
1951 – *The Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger
1952 – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck
1952 – *Wise Blood* – Flannery O'Connor
1953 – *Go Tell it on the Mountain* – James Baldwin
1958 – *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe
1959 – *A Separate Peace* – John Knowles
1961 – *Catch-22* – Joseph Heller
1966 – *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys
1967 – *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok
1969 – *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou
1969 – *Slaughterhouse-Five* – Kurt Vonnegut
1970 – *Grendel* – John Gardner
1972 – *Bless Me, Ultima* – Rudolfo Anaya
1973 – *Sula* – Toni Morrison
1976 – *A River Runs Through It* – Norman Maclean

1977 – *Song of Solomon* – Toni Morrison
1977 – *Ceremony* – Leslie Marmon Silko
1981 – *Obasan* – Joy Kogawa
1982 – *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker
1984 – *The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros
1987 – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison
1989 – *A Prayer for Owen Meany* – John Irving
1990 – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
1992 – *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt
1992 – *All the Pretty Horses* – Cormac McCarthy
1994 – *In the Lake of the Woods* – Tim O'Brien
1996 – *Into the Wild* – John Krakauer (non-fiction)
1997 – *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier
1997 – *The Red Tent* – Anita Diamant
1997 – *Memoirs of a Geisha* – Arthur Golden
1998 – *The Poisonwood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver
2001 – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan
2001 – *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel
2002 – *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri
2003 – *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini
2005 – *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* – Kim Edwards
2005 – *The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Wells (non-fiction)
2005 – *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Jonathan Safran Foer
2006 – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
2008 – *Serena* – Ron Rash
2008 – *Little Bee* – Chris Cleave
2008 – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* - Khaled Hosseini
2010 – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot
2010 – *Room* – Emma Donoghue
2012 – *Salvage the Bones* – Jesmyn Ward
2012 – *Purple Hibiscus* - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2013 – *The Goldfinch* – Donna Tartt
2014 – *Americanah* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2014 – *All the Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr
2014 – *A Man Called Ove* – Fredrik Backman
2015 – *Go Set a Watchman* – Harper Lee
2015 – *The Nightingale* – Kristin Hannah
2017 – *Sing, Unburied, Sing* – Jesmyn Ward
2017 – *Born a Crime* – Trevor Noah (non-fiction)
2018 – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Delia Owens
2019 – *Little Fires Everywhere* – Celeste Ng

Suggested Plays:

Any Shakespearean play
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams
A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen
An Enemy of the People – Henrik Ibsen
Equus – Peter Shaffer

Fences – August Wilson
The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams
Hedda Gabler – Henrik Ibsen
The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
Major Barbara – George Bernard Shaw
Medea – Euripides
Mrs. Warren's Profession – George Bernard Shaw
Murder in the Cathedral – T.S. Eliot
Our Town – Thornton Wilder
The Piano Lesson – August Wilson
A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead – Tom Stoppard
A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams
Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? - Edward Albees