

English IV-British Literature Summer Reading

Greetings and welcome to English IV- British 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!

Assignment : Choice Read (Book Review Required)

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! I urge you to read texts that are challenging, diverse, and different from what you normally read. Upon completion of reading, you will write a 500+ word book review. Make sure you include in-text citations, and include a works cited page. Your paper must be in MLA format.

Writing the Book Review

Book reviews typically evaluate recently-written works. They offer a brief description of the text's key points and often provide a short appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the work. Readers sometimes confuse book reviews with book reports, but the two are not identical. Book reports commonly describe what happens in a work; their focus is primarily on giving an account of the major plot, characters, and/or main idea of the work. By contrast, a book review gives readers a sneak peek at what a book is like, whether or not the reviewer enjoyed it, and details on purchasing the book.

BEFORE YOU READ

Before you begin to read, consider the elements you will need to include in your review. The following items may help:

- **Author:** Who is the author? What else has s/he written? Has this author won any awards? What is the author's typical style?
- **Genre:** What type of book is this: fiction, nonfiction, romance, poetry, youth fiction, etc.? Who is the intended audience for this work? What is the purpose of the work?
- **Title:** Where does the title fit in? How is it applied in the work? Does it adequately encapsulate the message of the text? Is it interesting? Uninteresting?
- **Preface/Introduction/Table of Contents:** Does the author provide any revealing information about the text in the preface/introduction? Does a "guest author" provide the introduction? What judgments or preconceptions do the author and/or "guest author" provide? How is the book arranged: sections, chapters?
- **Book Jacket/Cover/Printing:** Book jackets are like mini-reviews. Does the book jacket provide any interesting details or spark your interest in some way? Are there pictures, maps, or graphs? Do the binding, page cut, or typescript contribute or take away from the work?

AS YOU READ

As you read, determine how you will structure the summary portion or background structure of your review. Be ready to take notes on the book's key points, characters, and/or themes.

- **Characters:** Are there characters in the work? Who are the principal characters? How do they affect the story? Do you empathize with them?
- **Themes/Motifs/Style:** What themes or motifs stand out? How do they contribute to the work? Are they effective or not? How would you describe this author's particular style? Is it accessible to all readers or just some?
- **Argument:** How is the work's argument set up? What support does the author give for her/findings? Does the work fulfill its purpose/support its argument?
- **Key Ideas:** What is the main idea of the work? What makes it good, different, or groundbreaking?
- **Quotes:** What quotes stand out? How can you demonstrate the author's talent or the feel of the book through a quote?

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO WRITE

Begin with a short summary or background of the work, but do not give too much away. Many reviews limit themselves only to the first couple of chapters or lead the reader up to the rising action of the work. Reviewers of nonfiction texts will provide the basic idea of the book's argument without too much detail.

The final portion of your review will detail your opinion of the work. When you are ready to begin your review, consider the following:

- **Establish a Background, Remember your Audience:** Remember that your audience has not read the work; with this in mind, be sure to introduce characters and principles carefully and deliberately. What kind of summary can you provide of the main points or main characters that will help your readers gauge their interest? Does the author's text adequately reach the intended audience? Will some readers be lost or find the text too easy?
- **Minor principles/characters:** Deal only with the most pressing issues in the book. You will not be able to cover every character or idea. What principles/characters did you agree or disagree with? What other things might the author have researched or considered?
- **Organize:** The purpose of the review is to critically evaluate the text, not just inform the readers about it. Leave plenty room for your evaluation by ensuring that your summary is brief. Determine what kind of balance to strike between your summary information and your evaluation. If you are writing your review for a class, ask your instructor. Often the ratio is half and half.
- **Your Evaluation:** Choose one or a few points to discuss about the book. What worked well for you? How does this work compare with others by the same author or other books in the same genre? What major themes, motifs, or terms does the book introduce, and how effective are they? Did the book appeal to you on an emotional or logical way?
- **Publisher/Price:** Most book reviews include the publisher and price of the book at the end of the article. Some reviews also include the year published and ISBN.

REVISING

When making the final touches to your review, carefully verify the following:

- Double-check the spelling of the author name(s), character names, special terms, and publisher.
- Try to read from the vantage point of your audience. Is there too much/enough summary? Does your argument about the text make sense?
- Should you include direct quotes from the reading? Do they help support your arguments? Double-check your quotes for accuracy.

Popular Titles for AP Lit Readers:

Ancient Texts

800 BC – *The Iliad* – Homer

800 BC – *The Odyssey* – Homer

Neoclassical

1722 – *Moll Flanders* – Daniel Defoe

1726 – *Gulliver's Travels* – Jonathan Swift

1749 – *Tom Jones* – Henry Fielding

1759 – *Candide* – Voltaire

Romantic

Any novel by Jane Austen

1823 – *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley

Victorian

Any novel by Charles Dickens

1847 – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë

1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë

1850 – *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne

1851 – *Moby Dick* – Herman Melville

1856 – *Madame Bovary* – Gustave Flaubert

1866 – *Crime and Punishment* – Fyodor Dostoevsky

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

1898 – *The Turn of the Screw* – Henry James

1899 – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin

Naturalist

1900 – *Sister Carrie* – Theodore Dreiser

1900 – *Lord Jim* – Joseph Conrad

1902 – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad

1906 – *The Jungle* – Upton Sinclair

1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton

Modern

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

1929 – *The Sound and the Fury* – William Faulkner

1930 – *As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner

1932 – *Light in August* – William Faulkner

1932 – *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley

1937 – *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston

1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck

1940 – *Native Son* – Richard Wright

1947 – *All the King's Men* – Robert Penn Warren

1948 – *Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton

1949 – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell

Post Modern

1951 – *The Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger

1952 – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck

1952 – *Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison

1952 – *Wise Blood* – Flannery O'Connor

1953 – *Go Tell it on the Mountain* – James Baldwin

1958 – *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe

1960 – *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee

1961 – *Catch-22* – Joseph Heller

1966 – *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys

1972 – *Bless Me, Ultima* – Rudolfo Anaya

1973 – *Sula* – Toni Morrison

1977 – *Ceremony* – Leslie Marmon Silko

1977 – *Song of Solomon* – Toni Morrison

1981 – *Obasan* – Joy Kogawa

1982 – *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker

1985 – *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood

1987 – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison

1990 – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien

1992 – *All the Pretty Horses* – Cormac McCarthy

2001 – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan

2003 – *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini

2006 – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy

2008 – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* – Khaled Hosseini

2012 – *Salvage the Bones* – Jesmyn Ward

2012 – *Purple Hibiscus* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

2014 – *All the Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr

2014 – *Americanah* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

2017 – *Homegoing* – Yaa Gyasi

2018 – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Delia Owens

Suggested Plays:

Any Shakespearean play

Antigone – Sophocles

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams

The Crucible – Arthur Miller

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

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

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

AP Writing Rubric

Criteria	AP Lit Skill	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Overall Paragraph	<i>LAN-7.A - Develop a paragraph that includes 1) a claim that requires defense with evidence from the text and 2) the evidence itself.</i>				
Comments:					
Thesis	<i>LAN-7.B Develop a thesis statement that conveys a defensible claim about an interpretation of literature and that may establish a line of reasoning.</i>				
Comments:					
Organization & Reasoning	<i>LAN-7.C Develop commentary that establishes and explains relationships among textual evidence, the line of reasoning, and the thesis.</i>				
Comments:					
Textual Support	<i>LAN-7.D Select and use relevant and sufficient evidence to both develop and support a line of reasoning.</i>				
Comments:					
Control of the Elements	<i>LAN-7.E Demonstrate control over the elements of composition to communicate clearly.</i>				
Comments:					
Total Score: _____ / _____					

