

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2023

Ms. Able

Email: nable@killinglyschools.org

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! Your summer reading assignment is described below. It may be helpful to purchase your own copy of the book for reading, highlighting, and annotating. Used copies are readily available at used bookshops, barnesandnoble.com, and amazon.com.

Assignment:

Keep a dialectical journal as you read. In the left column, write a quotation from the text with proper citation. On the right side, write questions, observations, or whatever strikes you as interesting. This is where you should analyze the text and make inferences. For example, you may note patterns and write assertions regarding these patterns. You should comment on the content such as character development, setting, conflict, and themes. It is also important to explore the writer's craft such as style, tone, point of view, and structure. It would also be beneficial to discuss examples of literary techniques such as imagery, symbolism, motifs, metaphors, juxtaposition, etc. You may also want to make connections between the text you are reading and another work you have read. Make sure that you pull quotations from the beginning, middle, and end of each text. Please come to the first day of class with your summer reading complete.

It is important to remember that a summary of the reading is not acceptable content for dialectical journal responses. Most importantly, you should write an analysis that demonstrates you have deeply and actively read the text. As always, do not use the internet. Plot summaries found there are shallow, useless, and obvious. It is important to show your own original thinking about the text. As always, the school's plagiarism policy will be enforced.

The journals will be used to guide discussion, analysis, and writing during the first weeks of school and throughout the year. You will be required during Socratic Seminars to go directly to the text as you discuss your observations. These journals should also be kept for the school year as they will allow you to refresh your memory on these texts before taking the AP exam.

Please contact me via email if you have questions. Be sure to share this letter with your parents/guardians so that they are aware of summer reading requirements for the AP Literature class. Good luck and enjoy your summer reading!

Summer Reading Texts:

1. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. You should record and analyze 10-15 quotations.
2. Poetry of your choice--one poem from five different contemporary poets (5 poems total). You should record and analyze 2-3 quotations per poem. They should be published between 1950 and the present. You will find the Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org) to be an outstanding resource for finding poems. You will be required to share at least one of these poems and your analysis of it with the class.

3. Finally, complete the all school summer reading assignment. You may choose any book, but I strongly suggest you choose one of the books listed on the top of the next page as they are challenging and may be useful when you take your AP exam.

Suggested Titles for All School Summer Reading

Heart of Darkness The Nickel Boys All the Light We Cannot See The Night Watchman The Roundhouse The Awakening Where the Crawdads Sing Wuthering Heights The Scarlet Letter The Underground Railroad Great Expectations	A Separate Peace A Streetcar Named Desire The Great Gatsby Brave New World The Road The Sun Also Rises Sense and Sensibility Native Son A Raisin in the Sun A Prayer for Owen Meany The Sympathizer	Lord of the Flies The Goldfinch The Dutch House The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn The Sweetness of Water The Shipping News The Sympathizer The Things They Carried Hamnet Trust Exercise The Catcher in the Rye
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Sample Dialectical Journal entry for *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley:

<p>“I am by birth a Genevese, and my family is one of the most distinguished of that republic” (Shelley 33).</p>	<p>Here, as well as the other descriptions of Frankenstein’s childhood, it is clear that he is quite wealthy. He has had an easy childhood, and likely has never had to wish for anything, emotionally wise nor for material goods. This, while preventing him from gaining trauma early on, also has likely caused him to become accustomed to being number one. He won the lottery of life, and could be arrogant due to it. His high social class has shaped his world view, and therefore, has shaped who he is as a person. This will affect his interactions with other characters, and most likely, his relationship with the monster.</p>
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