



GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AP Literature and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment 2024

"Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work." – Umberto Eco

Summer Reading Booklist:

1. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (1847)
2. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (1937)
3. *Franny and Zooey* by J. D. Salinger (1961)

When: **Monday, August 12** marks the hard deadline for you to have read and annotated all three novels. Be prepared to take a reading comprehension test and write an in-class essay over each of the three novels. You must bring all three annotated novels to class on Monday, August 12.

Why summer reading?

- To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts
- To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of literature - elements like theme, narrative, viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, etc.
- To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year
- To provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Lit exam next spring
- Last (but not least) to enrich your mind and stimulate your imagination

Why annotations?

In order to prepare for in-depth discussion and analysis of these novels and to prepare for the in-class essay, I expect you to annotate all three novels. You will be able to use your own copy of the novels for these in-class essays. The more you annotate - in a way that is meaningful to you - the more you will get out of your reading. *At the very least* you should actively annotate using the following four recommendations:

1. Always read with a pencil in hand. Having something to write with helps me focus. I love being ready to underline a beautiful or insightful phrase or make a comment in the margin.
2. Create a character list in the inside cover of the novel. Especially in longer novels this helps to keep track of each character. I include page numbers when key characters are introduced and when significant events occur.

3. List a few key plot points at the end of each chapter.
4. Actively look for the messages (themes) from the author and note them.

But if you are curious as to what Harvard College Library recommends, keep reading...

What should these annotations look like?

READ THIS FIRST: The Harvard College Library annotation guide: "Interrogating Texts: Six reading habits to Develop in you First Year at Harvard." <http://guides.library.harvard.edu/sixreadinghabits>

- **Mark Patterns, Devices, and Techniques:** Look for patterns and label them (motifs, diction, syntax, symbols, images, and behavior, whatever). Explain the effects of syntax, tone, diction, point of view, figurative language and other techniques on the text.
- **Mark passages that seem to jump out at you** because they suggest an important idea or theme- or for any other reason (an arresting figure of speech or image, an intriguing sentence pattern, a striking example of foreshadowing, a key moment in the plot, a bit of dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting etc.).
- **Mark phrases, sentences, or passages that puzzle, intrigue, please, or displease you.** Ask questions and make comments. Talk back to the text.
- **Pay attention to allusions.** Familiarize yourself with references to specific passages from other works (the Bible will play an important role in both novels). Looking up a brief overview of an allusion can illuminate meanings in the text that you would be blind to otherwise. Make connections to other texts you have read or to things you have seen, including movies, comic books/graphic novels, news events, other books, stories, plays, songs, or poems
- **Pay attention to any significance that might be suggested by a character's name.** Make a note of your understanding of how their names signal more about them.
- **Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.**

- *Adapted with thanks from Oviedo High School and Dunbar High School AP Resources*