

# 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