

## AP English Literature: Summer Writing and Reading 2024

Dear AP Literature Class of 2024-2025,

Beyond the sleeping and sun of summer vacation, senior year awaits! Since applying to college is a momentous part of your first semester, revising and fine-tuning your college essay is part of our first unit. To be ready for that, this summer, please complete and type a draft of your college essay.

AP English Literature and Composition substitutes for a first-year course in college composition. For many universities and colleges, qualifying on the AP exam allows you to either sidestep a 100-level writing course or receive college credit for it. Such a class enables you to write effectively in all your courses and into your professional life. To this end, the College Board asserts, a typical college course emphasizes analytical and argumentative writing, the kind of writing that “forms the basis for academic and professional communication.” AP English Literature, in particular, asks you to apply your analytical skills to how authors craft the meaning of a work, with attention to the richness of language. Because reading complex literature analytically is an essential component of this class, I would also like you to embark on your reading over the summer. Please see the assignment below. I am so excited to start teaching you in the fall!

To do:

- 1) Complete and type the first draft of your college essay.
- 2) In addition to your own choices in summer reading, select a novel of high literary merit to read for our class. I've included a short list of suggestions below. Please do **not** choose any Allow time to hunt for what you would really like to read!
  - ◆ Annotate as you read. Note the author's choices regarding perspective, characters, motifs, language, and plot design, considering how they contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.
  - ◆ What will we be doing with this reading? Creating a Literature Study Template and writing a book review. This template is not work for over the summer, but you may want to bookmark pages!

Adichie, Chimimanda	<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>
Allende, Isabel	<i>The House of Spirits</i>
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor	<i>Crime and Punishment</i>
E. M. Forster	<i>A Room with a View</i>
Gyasi, Yaa	<i>Homegoing</i>
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i>
Huxley, Aldous	<i>Brave New World</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Sula</i>
Murakami, Haruki	<i>Kafka on the Shore</i>
McEwan, Ian	<i>Atonement</i>
Orwell, George	<i>1984</i>
Rhys, Jean	<i>Wide, Sargasso Sea</i>
Roy, Arundhati	<i>The God of Small Things</i>
Silko, Leslie Marmon	<i>Ceremony</i>
Tolstoy, Leo	<i>Anna Karenina</i>

Note: Be advised that literature, in its pursuit of depicting the human condition, may contain provocative and emotionally challenging material such as verbal abuse, physical and sexual assault, and racist, ableist, antisemitic, and misogynist views. I encourage you to read book summaries and reviews before embarking on reading.

## Study Template: Literary Works

**Title:**

**Author's full name:**

**Era/ century:**

**Genre:**

**Nationality:**

**Setting(s):**

**Key characters (include parallels, contrasts, foils):**

**Key conflicts (as a way of doing a brief plot summary):**

**Distinctive structural elements (describe what stands out in terms of the plot structure, pacing, point of view, setting, flashbacks, foreshadowing, etc.):**

**6 standout scenes. Name the scene and connect it to at least one literary element—symbols, images, metaphor, foils, parallels, etc.**

**6-8 quotable quotes. Keep these brief and memorable, and include page numbers:**

**Motifs (repeated ideas/images):**

**Themes—a theme is a message expressed as a full sentence rather than a word or phrase**