

12th GRADE AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
SUMMER READING, 2024

*Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen [Please buy the physical book -- not an electronic version -- and bring it to class. If possible, please get ISBN number: 978-0-141-43951-8].

You are required to have this book read by the first day of school. As you read, think about Austen's attitude toward her characters. Which seem obvious; which seem more perplexing? How does she lead us in making conclusions about these characters? Think about how the reactions of other characters help us see the character being described. We see today how people are judged from prejudices, as well as how difficult it can be to change those prejudices. Austen's novel is certainly of a different time and a different place, but the tendency to judge from prejudice is a topic of great importance for Austen. The original title of the novel was *First Impressions*, and Austen explores the danger of judging someone without really knowing them.

Written assignment: Choose one of the following questions to answer about any one of the characters in the novel. You must include at least 2-3 quote snippets for support, and your paper should be about two pages. This is not a thesis essay, but a journal response that should demonstrate thought and understanding of the character you choose. You may use first-person for this assignment.

1. If you had to drive for three hours with one of the characters from the book, which character would you *least like to be with* and why?
2. Which of the characters in the book is the hardest to explain to someone who has not read the book? Why?
3. Comment on a contemporary event from the point of view of one of the characters in the book. You will, of course, need to speak in the voice of that person.

Optional reading:

*Americanah*, by Chimamanda Adiche

*Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte

*The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison

*A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams

*Mrs. Dalloway*, by Virginia Woolf