

2024-25 AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading

Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Garraway, and Mr. Boisclair

Welcome readers and writers to AP Literature and Composition! We look forward to working with you during the next school year. As part of this course, students will read and annotate a novel during the summer.

Reading over the summer helps keep the students' minds "in the game," and it adds to the number of major literary works the students will have read by the time they enter AP Literature. Also, students in a given class arrive to school in August having had a common literary experience, providing them and their teacher immediate instructional opportunities.

STEPS TO SUCCESS:

STEP 1

You will choose **one** book from the list below to read over the summer. These books were chosen for their literary merit and the beneficial content needed to help students become widely read in preparation for the AP Literature and Composition exam in the spring. **YOU MUST OBTAIN A PHYSICAL COPY OF THE BOOK—NO DIGITAL VERSION.** You will be using this book for an assessment in the first couple of weeks of school and you will not be able to access digital materials.

STEP 2

While reading, students are **expected** to **annotate** or keep a writing journal to assist in their comprehension. **If a student is unable to mark up and make notes in their chosen book, they may use sticky notes. If a student is reading a digital copy of their chosen novel, most digital devices have annotation tools for marking up texts.**

How do I annotate?

- Underline or highlight the major points.
- Circle keywords or phrases that are confusing or unknown to you.
- Write notes in the margins restating the author's ideas. What kinds of things should I annotate?
 - words and phrases that wowed you or confused you
 - important scenes or key sections of dialogue
 - character descriptions, key decisions, motivations, and flaws
 - questions and inferences that pop into your head as you are reading
 - connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows, or to your personal life
 - figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

STEP 3

As you are reading and annotating, think about the following questions. Be prepared to discuss questions like these during the first week(s) of class. If you are able to answer these types of questions, you will likely be well-prepared for any task(s) your teacher assigns.

- What confused you or surprised you in this text?
- As you read this text, describe how you felt. For example, were you bored, caught up, thinking about characters, thinking about how you might react if in the same situation, enjoying the author's writing style, or enjoying the humor or suspense?
- Which events in the text are most connected to the setting?
- Which character or characters did you think learned the hardest or most important lessons in this text? Why did you choose that character?
- Which character changed the most in the text? How did that character change? What did you learn about that character in watching that change? What did you learn about yourself?
- Which passage in the text would you consider most significant or most important? Why? Did that passage help shape what you considered to be the message of this text?
- The plot (the series of events in the text) and the theme (the lesson or message you take away from text) are not the same. Think of the text you just read. What is the plot? What is the theme? How does the plot relate to or affect the theme?
- Why did the author choose the narrator he or she did to tell this story?

STEP 4

Students can expect an assignment or assignments and discussion based on their summer reading during the first week(s) of class. Students will not be tested on the books until after the second week of class. However, students must come to the first day of class having read their selected novel, completed their annotations, and prepared to discuss their novel.

Helpful Hint: Don't wait until the week before school begins to try and read your selected novel and complete the annotations. Unexpected events may pop up that could get in the way of you completing your reading on time. Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters you are going to read per week and stick to it.

*****See Next Page for Novel Choices*****

AP Novel List

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

***The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead**

Elwood Curtis has taken the words of Dr Martin Luther King to heart: he is as good as anyone. Abandoned by his parents, brought up by his loving, strict and clear-sighted grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But given the time and the place, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy his future, and so Elwood arrives at The Nickel Academy, which claims to provide 'physical, intellectual and moral training' which will equip its inmates to become 'honorable and honest men'.

***All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

1970s Afghanistan: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what would happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realizes that one day he must return to an Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

This novel tells the story of two families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, who live in the moors of Yorkshire in the late 18th century. The story centers around the passionate and destructive love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, an orphan boy whom Mr. Earnshaw adopts and brings home to Wuthering Heights. As Catherine and Heathcliff's relationship evolves, their love is tested by social class differences, family conflict, and the destructive force of revenge. The novel is known for its complex characters and themes of love, betrayal, and the destructive power of human passion.