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AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment (2024-2025)

To prepare for AP Literature this summer, you will read **two books** and examine **one question**.

Everyone will read *There, There* by Tommy Orange (2018), winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award. The publisher's description reads: "Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering bestselling novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.... [T]his chorus ... tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism."

Second, you will choose one text from the list below of frequently suggested titles on the AP Literature exam. Consider your reading preferences and blind spots as you select your title. Do you need more familiarity with pre-20th century texts? Do you really want to read something about the immigrant experience in America or a difficult friendship between teen girls? Scan a summary of each novel before choosing with an eye toward both pleasure and challenge.

<i>Jane Eyre</i> Charlotte Bronte (1847)	<i>Cat's Eye</i> Margaret Atwood (1988)
<i>Great Expectations</i> Charles Dickens (1861)	<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> Amy Tan (1989)
<i>Invisible Man</i> Richard Wright (1952)	<i>Atonement</i> Ian McEwan (2001)
<i>Brown Girl, Brownstones</i> Paule Marshall (1959)	<i>The Namesake</i> Jhumpa Lahiri (2003)
<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i> Rudolfo Anaya (1972)	<i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i> Ocean Vuong (2019)

You will be writing a different essay on each of your summer reading books. One essay you will prepare at home in response to the prompt below and bring to class on the second day of school. You may choose which of your two texts you would like to write about for this prompt.

The other essay you will draft in class during the first two weeks of school and must write about your second summer reading book. You will receive that prompt in class.

At-Home Prompt (from the 2013 exam):

A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.