

## **AP English Literature and Composition**

### **Summer Reading Assignment 2024**

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**You must complete ALL THREE tasks!**

#### **Task 1:**

**Read and annotate: *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez**

**ISBN-13: 978-1565129764**

#### **Task 2:**

**Read and annotate: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

**ISBN-13: 978-1673303056**

#### **Task 3:**

**In MLA format, write a 5-7 paragraph essay exploring how the historical context in each of the two books correlates with the emotional development of the characters. Do not use an AI chatbot to write this paper.**

#### **Writing Advice:**

- A proper introduction with a thematic statement and thesis statement, titles, authors
- At least 2 body paragraphs (with clear and strong topic sentences + textual evidence from both novels to support that prove each paragraph's topic sentence and the thesis of your essay)
- A conclusion that does not simply repeat the introduction but rather provides a more compelling and convincing closing

Remember the 3Ts: third person language (so avoid using "you" and "I"), present tense, and serious tone.

Briefly PLAN your essay before writing and PROOFREAD it afterward.

#### **Annotation Advice:**

There are many ways to interact with a text. Consider asking a lot of questions, defining words you don't know, making personal connections, and commenting on language that you find beautiful, challenging, or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotations with your enjoyment of the reading.

Synopsis of *In the Time of the Butterflies* (from amazon.com):

It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leónidas Trujillo's dictatorship. It doesn't have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas—the Butterflies.

In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters--Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé--speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from secret crushes to gunrunning, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo's rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez's imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human costs of political oppression.

Synopsis of *Heart of Darkness* (from amazon.com):

A new edition of *Heart of Darkness*, the 1899 masterpiece by Polish-British novelist **Joseph Conrad** about a voyage up the Congo River into the Heart of Africa.

The story is narrated by Charles Marlow, recalling his obsessive quest to locate the ivory trader Kurtz, who has become ensconced deep in the jungle managing a remote outpost. As he ventures further and further down the Congo, Marlow finds himself and his surroundings become increasingly untethered.