

**AP English Summer Reading Part II, 2024: Select one of the following novels, and complete the character analysis for one character of your choosing. Your reading of the novel and your character analysis should be completed by the first day of school.**

***The Women* by Kristin Hannah**

**Award-winning and bestselling author of twenty novels including *The Nightingale*, which was named Goodreads Best Historical Fiction novel for 2015 and won the People's Choice award for best fiction that same year.**

Beatriz Williams, an American historical fiction writer, in her *New York Times* article titled "Kristin Hannah's New Novel Puts Combat Nurses Front and Center in Vietnam," states, "Hannah is in top form here, plunging the reader into the chaotic miseries of the combat zone. She deploys details to visceral effect."

In 1965, nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath challenged tradition by joining the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam. Amidst the chaos of war, she confronts life, death, and friendship. The story follows her return to a divided America, amidst protests and national indifference. *The Women* honors female heroes, exploring sacrifice and courage in the face of adversity ("Women").

***Enter Ghost* by Isabella Hammad**

**Shortlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction.**

Monica Ali, a British writer and the 2003 recipient of "The Best of Young British Novelists" award states, "*Enter Ghost* is a beautiful, profound meditation on the role of art in our society and our lives."

After years away in London, Actress Sonia Nasir returns to Haifa, Israel, reuniting with sister Haneen and confronting her Palestinian roots, which are "fragile, both bone-deep and new" ("*Enter*"). Joining director Mariam's West Bank production of *Hamlet*, Sonia delves into rehearsals in classical Arabic. Amidst group conflicts and mounting tensions, they strive to bridge divides. Isabella Hammad's novel explores family ties and "shared resistance" ("*Enter*").

***River East, River West* by Aube Rey Lescure**

**Shortlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction.**

Kirkus Reviews regarded the novel as "an ambitious, innovative take on both the immigrant and coming-of-age novel." Monica Ali a British author states that the novel is "about reinvention. It's original, it's funny, and it's sometimes heartbreaking as well."

*River East, River West* is a captivating tale of immigration, family, and ambition amidst China's economic surge ("*River*"). In 2007 Shanghai, young fourteen-year-old Alva plans her escape from her mother's engagement to a wealthy landlord through education, by attending an elite American School, but it is not as she envisioned. Meanwhile, in 1985 Qingdao, Lu Fang, a newlywed "lowly shipping clerk" navigates political turmoil and newfound opportunities, amounting to a compelling exploration of identity and the pursuit of dreams ("*River*").

## Character Analysis for the Choice Novel - 2024

*The Women* - Kristin Hannah

*Enter Ghost* - Isabella Hammad

*River East, River West* - Aube Rey Lescure

Characters are often the vehicle through which authors explore their major ideas and thematic concerns. You will select a character from your novel that interests you and critique the architecture of their character: physically, intellectually, philosophically, spiritually, and psychologically. Some topics will require you to speculate based on the description and your imagining of the character. Use textual evidence as the basis for your understanding; include page references where they support your conclusions. Because we are looking for an integrated character analysis, your response should be written in narrative form by major topic rather than a bulleted list.

Character's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### How is the character described physically?

- Consider sex, age, physical dimensions, posture, eye color, hair color, manner of dress, hygiene, heredity, discernible intelligence, and any odd physical characteristics.
- In what ways does their physical presentation influence their interaction with other characters in the work?

### Sociology

- Evaluate the character in terms of class (formal or informal) and occupation
- What has been the nature of their education? What is their occupation?
- How do the character's home life and place in the community shape their sense of self and dictate their interactions with other characters in the work?
- Does the character pursue distinctive amusements, hobbies, or passions?
- Which particular images, aspects of character speech, and textual details are relevant in examining their relationships?

### Psychology/Spirituality

- Assess the character's motives for behavior (can also be related to personal ambitions and goals)
- What obstacles (internal or external) and resulting frustrations provoke or constrain the character's growth?
- Evaluate the character's moral or ethical standards. How do these standards affect their personality characteristics and values, both favorable and unfavorable?
- Critique the character's temperament. Are they mild-mannered or hostile? How do they react to conflict? How does that temperament shape their attitude toward life - what is life's purpose and value?
- What are their sources of power and how do they wield that power? Conversely, do they feel a sense of powerlessness?

### And Finally, Evolution and Complexity

- How do the character's contradictory or inconsistent traits contribute to their complexity?
- What mental obstacles lead the character to action or inaction?
- To what extent does the character's changing constitute progress or decline?
- **Lastly**, how does the character's changing or remaining unchanged affect other elements of the work and contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole? **In other words, how is this character tied to an overarching theme within the work? The theme is never one word or subject - rather, it is a statement expressing a position about the human experience.**