Summer Reading and Writing for AP English Literature and Composition

Dear AP English Student,

As you know, your work in connection with AP English actually begins over the summer with your summer reading. You will read all of the following:

1. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (**NOT** *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells!)
2. A **novel** of your choice: No more than two people on the same novel; sign up here.

Please choose a novel of at least 200 pages (or a combination of short novels). It should be a novel of literary merit, preferably by an author from the list below. Some of these authors may also write in other genres (poetry, autobiography, etc.), so be sure that your chosen work is truly a novel. Good writers often deal with controversial subjects, so do your research if you or your parents have concerns that way. Broaden your experiences in reading: your choice **should NOT be** a book you have previously read for a class, for summer reading, or on your own.

The following authors are among those whose works have the literary merit expected in an AP English course:

Chinua Achebe
Isabel Allende
Julia Alvarez
Kingsley Amis
Margaret Atwood
Jane Austen
James Baldwin
Honore de Balzac
Saul Bellow
Emily Bronte
Charlotte Bronte
Pearl Buck
Albert Camus
Willa Cather
Kate Chopin
Joseph Conrad
James Fenimore Cooper
Tsitsi Dangarembga
Edwidge Danticat
Daniel Defoe
Charles Dickens
Isaak Dinesen
Anthony Doerr
Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Theodore Dreiser
George Eliot
Louise Erdrich
William Faulkner
Gustave Flaubert
E. M. Forster
Nadine Gordimer
Graham Greene
Yaa Gyasi
Thomas Hardy
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Joseph Heller
Khaled Hosseini
Zora Neale Hurston
Aldous Huxley
Kazuo Ishiguro
Henry James
Ha Jin
James Joyce
Thomas King
Barbara Kingsolver
John Knowles
Jhumpa Lahiri
Margaret Laurence
D. H. Lawrence
Sinclair Lewis
Naguib Mahfouz
Bernard Malamud
Thomas Mann
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Cormac McCarthy
Carson McCullers
Herman Melville
N. Scott Momaday
Toni Morrison
Iris Murdoch
Tim O'Brien
Chaim Potok
Philip Roth
Salman Rushdie
Jane Smiley
Alexander Solzhenitsyn
Natsume Soseki
John Steinbeck (longer works)
Jonathan Swift
Amy Tan
Leo Tolstoy
Ann Tyler
John Updike
Kurt Vonnegut
Alice Walker
Edith Wharton
Eudora Welty
Thomas Wolfe
Virginia Woolf
Richard Wright

ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *The Great Gatsby* by F.Scott Fitzgerald, and *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev. These novels are already in the school-year curriculum.

Expectations:

- Read closely and critically. Any type of evaluation (quiz, test, essay, presentation, project, etc.) in the fall is fair game to determine the depth of your reading. If you cannot or will not read these novels independently, then please consider whether AP English Literature is the correct course placement for you.

- Annotate your novels. **I should not see anyone who has a novel free of writing.** If you must take your novels out of the library, then use post-it notes to get the job done. If you read electronically, annotate the text electronically. Come to class in the fall having thought deeply about the text. If you do not know how to annotate,

click here for an instructional YouTube video. Or, if you're old school, click here for the classic 1941 essay on annotation by Mortimer Adler:

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If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me via email at rbenz@cadets.com.