AP Literature

Summer Reading Assignment 2025

All summer reading work for this course is due on the designated date. Failure to turn in any part of the summer reading assignment will result in removal from the class. Please contact me at cburnette@bullochacademy.com with any questions! Summer reading for AP Literature will consist of 2 assignments.

#1: Choose ONE of the following books (ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st AT 11:59 ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM):

- The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards: On a winter night in 1964 in Lexington, Kentucky, a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child herself. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century—in which these two families, ignorant of each other, are yet bound by the fateful decision made that winter night long ago.

- Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng: In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs. Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

After reading the novel of your choice, answer the following questions. Answers should be typed, Times New Roman, 12 font. Please put the question on your paper, and then type the answer below the question. These questions require AT LEAST a paragraph to answer completely. Be sure that each question has been thoughtfully and completely answered!

1. In ONE paragraph, summarize the plot of the novel without giving away everything that happens. Provide the basics (who, what, when, where, and why).

2. Discuss the main character (if your book has multiple important characters, pick one). Choose 3 adjectives that describe the character and give specific examples from the book to defend your choices.

3. Identify 2 major tensions or conflicts in the novel. Explain how the conflict impacts ONE of the following: character, plot, or setting.

4. Describe the key settings and explain their significance to the novel as a whole. For example, a setting might parallel or contrast with a character, illuminate an issue within the community, act as its own character, etc.

5. In your opinion, what are the two most important topics/ideas in this novel? Explain how these topics/ideas are developed throughout the novel. These two words/phrases should summarize the plot and the overall meaning of the text. (Ex: family, secrets, regret, etc.)

6. Choose one section of the book that was particularly moving/striking to you and explain why you chose it. What stood out to you about this section? What was the impact of this section on the overall plot?

7. Discuss the meaning of the work as a whole. Not the plot here, but what you think the author was trying to tell us through writing the work. (Remember: theme is a STATEMENT, not just one word).

#2: Poetry Vocabulary (ASSIGNMENT DUE AUGUST 7TH WHEN YOU COME TO CLASS)

A large portion of AP Literature is dedicated to understanding and analyzing poetry. Poetry is the genre we tend to resist because it does not follow the same patterns as prose, making it sometimes confusing. Familiarize yourself with the poetry "vocabulary" words- many of these are already familiar literary devices. **We will take a quiz over these terms during the second week of school!!** They can be found in this Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/__6l1lrd

Choose 1 song that you enjoy. Use the TSWIFT chart on the next page to analyze the song. You can pick absolutely any song you want, but if you find yourself struggling to complete all parts of TSWIFT, you may want to search for a different one.

TSWIFT: POETRY ANALYSIS

Title	Before you even think about reading the poetry or trying to analyze it, speculate what you think the poem might be about based upon the title. Often, authors conceal meaning and give clues in the title.
Summary/ Structure	Before you begin thinking about deeper meaning, don't overlook the literal meaning of the poem. One of the biggest mistakes students often make in poetry analysis is jumping to conclusions before understanding what is taking place in the poem. You can either summarize the situation in the poem in a sentence, or it can be helpful to go line by line. Then, look at the structure of the poem. Rarely does a poem begin and end the poetic experience in the same place. As is true of most of us, the poet's understanding of an experience is a gradual realization, and the poem is a reflection of that understanding or insight. Watch for the following keys to shifts: ● Key words, (but, yet, however, although) ● Punctuation (dashes, periods, colons, ellipsis) ● Stanza divisions; Changes in line or stanza length or both ● Irony ● Changes in sound that may indicate changes in meaning ● Changes in diction
Word Choice	Analyze the diction and syntax in the poem. Look for any categories that words could be grouped into and consider why that choice was made. You also may consider specific words/phrases that really stand out to you and impact your experience as a reader.
Imagery / Figurative Language	Analyze any sensory details in the poem and what they convey. Then, consider any types of figurative language that you notice. What is the purpose of the comparison being made?
Tone/ Theme	Having examined the poem's devices and clues closely, think about the tone of the poem and how the author has created it. Remember that usually the tone or attitude cannot be named with a single word - think complexity! What is the poem saying about the human experience, motivation, or condition? What subject or subjects does the poem address? What do you learn about those subjects? What idea does the poet want you to take away with you concerning these subjects? Remember that the theme of any work of literature is stated in a complete sentence and make sure to avoid cliches.

	EVIDENCE	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Title		
Summary/ Structure		
Word Choice		
Imagery / Figurative Language		
Tone/ Theme		