

## AP Literature and Composition / Dual Enrollment

AP Project for Rising Seniors

Mr. Sirignano  
Darrell.sirignano@fcps1schools.net

I commend your decision to challenge yourself with a rigorous, college-level English class like Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition! This initial reading will provide you with a necessary foundation that will offer you some autonomy and will provide an understanding of your interests. **This assignment is DUE August 26th, 2025 by the start of that Monday Class.** In other words, this assignment needs to be completed and ready to discuss by the third week our class is together.

**Text:** *Choose one of the classic novels from the attached list. You will need to read this book in its entirety, and be prepared to discuss its content with others, and craft a project centered around it.*

**NOTE:** This project is expected to be lengthy and will take time to complete. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment! **Any book choice outside of the provided reading list must be approved by me!**

With your Book Choice: You will fully read your chosen book and actively take notes while you read. It is important to consider the intentionality of the author with this book, asking yourself what message are they trying to convey to you, as the reader, and evaluate how that narrative is told.

A specific Annotation Outline for this assignment will be provided to you on a separate handout and will be posted on our class schoology page. It is expected that you follow this outline explicitly!

**Assignment Overview:** You will read and annotate your chosen book. For **every** chapter, you are to write annotations that will function as a resource for you and will show me you have **actively** read the book. Create a Google Doc or a Google Slides Presentation that mirrors the Annotation Outline format, which will contain the following information within **each** chapter:

- Messaging/Themes with the novel, meaning the author's intentionality towards the reader
- Locating Symbols and assessing their deeper meaning
- Effective Quotes and what they may mean in the context of the novel or its themes
- Assessing the dynamic changes that occur throughout the novel and determining their deeper meaning.
- Establishing the Tone, meaning you are identifying the attitude/mood of the author or the characters within the text
- Making Personal or Real-World Connections between the novel and your everyday life.

**Grading is based on the quality and accuracy of each entry. Your annotations must contain in-text citations of the page numbers for EACH entry.** In other words, provide comprehensive content that allows for me to understand the full context of the book. **Work without the page citations will NOT be accepted!**

1. PART ONE: Your Summer Assignment will need to have a Cover Page. This cover page will need to include a MLA Citation of the novel, a page count of the full novel, a general summary of the novel's plot, a brief biography of the novel's author's life (with MLA works cited), and an explanation as to why you selected the novel.

2. PART TWO: ***Closely following the annotation outline and responding directly to its posed questions,*** summarize ALL the main ideas for **each** chapter. You must provide a deep evaluation for each chapter, effectively deconstructing HOW the book is written, while also working to understand the novel's meaning. **In other words, you are going beyond "what happens" in the book, and instead, you are assessing "HOW" it happens, and "WHY" it happens.**

***Under no circumstance are you permitted to use AI or any form of smart technology in ANY capacity for this assignment. This work will be checked for plagiarism and AI usage, to which all work will be rejected if it's revealed that this work is not entirely and authentically of your own creation.***

## AP/DE English 12 Reading List

Pick one of the following books to read, annotate, and write short responses for, in relation to the summer assignment. **If you wish to read something outside of this list, it must be approved by me prior, otherwise, your summer assignment will not be accepted.**

### “Shorter” Texts (300 Pages or Less)

Sylvia Plath: *The Bell Jar*

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

Zora Neal Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World*

James Joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* or *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

### “Regular-Length” Text (Under 400 Pages):

Louisa May Alcott: *Little Women*

Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid’s Tale*

Jane Austin: *Pride and Prejudice* or *Sense and Sensibility* or *Emma*

James Baldwin: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Michael Chabon: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*

Isak Dinesen: *Out of Africa*

Fyodor Dostoyevsky: *Crime and Punishment*

Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man*

William Faulkner: *The Sound and the Fury*

Henry Fielding: *Tom Jones*

Gustave Flaubert: *Madame Bovary*

E.M. Forster: *A Passage to India*

Charles Frazier: *Cold Mountain*

Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*

Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms* or *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

Khaled Hosseini: *The Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

W. Somerset Maugham: *The Razor’s Edge*

Ian McEwan: *Atonement*

Toni Morrison: *Beloved*

Upton Sinclair: *The Jungle*

Bram Stoker: *Dracula*

Robert Penn Warren: *All the King’s Men*

Alice Walker: *The Color Purple*

Edith Wharton: *The Age of Innocence*

### Longer-Length Texts (over 400 pages):

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*

Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*

Truman Capote: *In Cold Blood*

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations* or *A Tale of Two Cities* or *Bleak House*

Theodore Dreiser: *An American Tragedy*

Joseph Heller: *Catch 22*

Victor Hugo: *Les Miserables*

Herman Melville: *Moby-Dick*

Richard Russo: *Empire Falls*

John Steinbeck: *The Grapes of Wrath* or *East of Eden*

William Styron: *Sophie’s Choice*

Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver’s Travels*

William Makepeace Thackeray: *Vanity Fair*

Leo Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina* or *War and Peace*

John Irving: *The World According to Garp* or *The Cider House Rules*

## 2025 Summer Assignment Annotation Outline for AP/DE English 12

**Instructions:** For your summer assignment, you will be reading a work of classic literature and deconstructing it to showcase a deeper understanding of the text, but to also set yourself up with a guideline, a sort of “cheat sheet” that will benefit you for our class’ first unit and project. Please note, your annotations must explicitly follow this outline format and must cover the **FULL** novel, otherwise your work will not be accepted.

---

### PART ONE: Creating Your Cover Letter

The first page of your annotations needs to have a cover page, to which the following information is provided, all within a single page:

- Your Name
- Name of your selected novel and its author
- An MLA Citation of your novel in the following format:  
**Last Name, First Name. *Title of Novel*. Publisher, Year of Publication.**
- Provide a chapter and page count of the full novel (This will be verified before reading your annotations!)
- In at least 150 words, provide a brief overview of the novel’s plot. This should be in your own words, quick, and straight-to-the-point.
- In at least 300 words, write a brief biography about the novel’s author. Your information should come from a reputable source (no Wikipedia!). You will need to provide an MLA citation to indicate as to where you got your information. For websites, use the following MLA format:  
**Author’s Last Name, First Name. “*Title of Web Page*.” Website Name, Publisher (if different from website name), Date of Publication, URL. Accessed **DAY MONTH YEAR****
- **In at least 300 words or more**, explain as to why you have selected this novel for your summer assignment. In other words, what drew you to this specific book? Your response to this section should be insightful and refrain from superficial content.

### Grading for Cover Letter (50 Total):

- **5 Points:** Name, Novel Title, correct MLA Citation, and page count
- **10 Points:** Plot Overview
- **10 Points:** Author Overview, with MLA citation of reputable source
- **15 Points:** Novel Selection Reflection
- **10 Points:** Format, Grammar, Formality, and MLA Citations

---

### PART TWO: Your Annotation Outline

Your task is to create a Google Document or a Google Slides presentation that shows you have taken the time to read and thoughtfully think through each chapter.

Please note, **annotations are NOT summary!** They are about critical thinking, evaluation, and dissection of a text. These annotations will be valuable to you for our class’ first unit project, which will exclusively focus on your summer reading.

**Mandatory Requirement: EVERY annotation response must include a page number** citation from the novel. Audiobooks and E-Books are NOT permitted for this assignment. **Find and use a physical copy of the novel for this assignment.**

### For Each Chapter, Include the Following Annotations:

\*If your novel does not contain chapters, your annotations should be for page spans of 20 pages (Example: Pages 1-20, then Pages 21-40, etc.)

- Chapter Number and the Page Length  
→ Example: Chapter 15, Pages 137-147.
- **Theme:**  
→ In your opinion, what is the central idea or message of this chapter?

- What specific line, event, or image from this chapter made you gravitate towards this theme? Explain.
- **Symbolism:**
  - Identify at least one meaningful symbol from this chapter, or the continuation of a symbol that was introduced earlier in the novel.
  - What does this symbol possibly represent? Has this symbol evolved as the novel has progressed? Explain for either.
- **Quotes:**
  - Select TWO quotes from the chapter that you thought to be profound.
  - For each quote, in 100 words or more, explain why this quote stood out to you personally or in the context of the novel?
- **Tone:**
  - Select an adjective that you think encapsulates the mood or attitude of the chapter.
  - What specific words or phrases (provide at least 2 from the chapter) made you, as a reader, gravitate towards your selected adjective? Explain your rationale in at least 100 words.
- **Dynamic Development:**
  - Identify a character (or two) who undergoes a significant change at this point in the novel, or identify a significant event that occurs.
  - What is shifting, growing, deteriorating, or even being revealed in this chapter through this change that occurs? Explain.
  - If the chapter is static, what might be the purpose of this lack of change within this chapter?
- **Personal Connection**
  - Identify a significant moment within this chapter.
  - Connect this significant moment with a movie, TV show, video game, song, real-world event, or even a personal experience. In at least 100 words, explain the correlation between the two. Be specific!

### **Grading Rubric for Annotations for Summer Assignment (100 Points)**

- **30 Points: Completion and Consistency**  
Annotations are completed and there are no missing sections.
- **25 Points: Depth of Analysis**  
The content provided within these annotations showcase a dense understanding of the text and strong critical thinking skills. Content is devoid of summary and is more of an evaluation of the text.
- **15 Points: Quotations and Textual Evidence**  
Per chapter, two quotations are provided, along with page citations of where they can be located within the novel. Each chapter contains evidence from the text to support claims or observations being made.
- **15 Points: Personal Connections**  
Per chapter, a thoughtful 100+ word personal or real-world connection was made that links the chapter to something intimate to the student.
- **10 Points: Tone**  
Per chapter, there is an adjective describing the tone of that section of the novel, along with concise evidence that supports this claim.
- **5 Points: Effort and Thoroughness**  
Work is clear, organized, follows the format of the outline, and it is clear that the student took the time and care to complete this assignment.