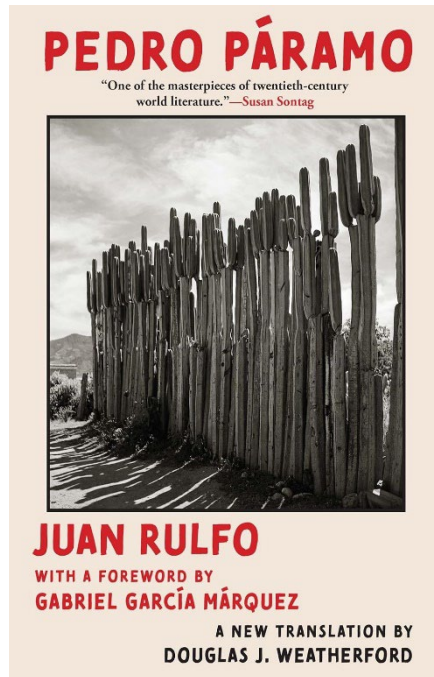


AP Lit & Comp: World Literature, Level 4 (W230534)

Pedro Páramo, Juan Rulfo

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Welcome to AP English 4! To prepare you for the literature and issues explored in the course, you should read and annotate the novel Pedro Páramo by Juan Rulfo.

Rulfo's novel of familial discovery follows a young man who, upon the death of his mother, goes on a journey to the town of his birth in search of his father. Considered one of the great influences on the development of the modern literary form known as magical realism, Rulfo breaks from the tradition of realism and creates a surreal world for his protagonist to navigate. In the foreword by author Susan Sontag, she describes the work in this fashion:

“Everyone asked Rulfo why he didn't write another book, as if the point of a writer's life was to go on writing and publishing. In fact, the point of a writer's life is to produce a great book – that is, a book that will last – and that is what Rulfo did.”

- Susan Sontag

We think you will find this novel compelling reading that will enrich your summer and prepare you for the challenges of reading world literature that lie ahead. This work is essential to the curriculum and must be finished by the opening of the school year. When classes begin in August, we will ask you to write an in-class essay addressing the ideas present in the novella. The work is short, only 124 pages, but it constitutes a reading challenge. As such, read the novella about 1-2 two weeks before the beginning of school; break it up over several nights.

To prepare do the following:

- Annotate the text as you need to track the narrative. The story is non-linear, so keep track of where the story changes time, place, and narrator. Much like Faulkner, it is a story told in different voices. Keep track of them.
- Keep track of where you are confused in the narrative. What is hard about that section? How has it challenged you as a reader?
- Keep a nightly journal in which you record your reading experience. What can you summarize from each section? What ideas stand out to you? What questions and confusions do you have as a reader?