

# *AP Literature and Composition*

## Summer Reading Assignment 2026

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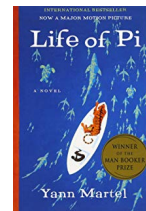
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Dear AP Student,

Congratulations on enrolling in AP Literature and Composition. These two summer reading assignments are important and will help you to develop and observe your independent, authentic, close-reading, and writing skills. Reading and writing over the summer, when you can plan and observe your own schedule and habits, will help you cultivate long-term life skills. Independent reading and writing help you develop critical thinking skills, independence and self-reliance, and self-confidence.

This summer, you'll complete two assignments, **both due the first day of school**. You'll read and annotate two texts: *Life of Pi*, a novel, and a play of your choice from the list below. There will be a writing assignment in the first week of school.

All the directions are below. See you in August!



### Assignment One

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals, bound for new homes. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat with his only companions: a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, a 450-pound Bengal tiger, and God.

**Directions:** Read this novel completely (the movie is very different from the book). Get the paper edition and bring your book to class on the first day of school.

### Assignment Two

**Read one play and write an Open-Response Essay.**

Choose one play from the list below. All of these plays are classic works about universal themes such as Family Dynamics, The American Dream, Personal Responsibility, Coming of Age, Spiritual Growth, Discovery, Freedom, Hope, Self-Understanding, and more.

- *A Raisin in the Sun*. Lorraine Hansberry. A play about an African-American family aspiring to move beyond segregation and disenfranchisement in 1950s Chicago. Despite its specific era, the work speaks universally to the desire to improve one's circumstances, while disagreeing on the best way to achieve them. The title comes from the poem "Harlem" (also known as "A Dream Deferred") by Langston Hughes.

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- *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Tennessee Williams. This drama follows troubled former schoolteacher Blanche DuBois as she leaves small-town Mississippi and moves in with her sister, Stella. Blanche's flirtatious Southern-belle presence causes problems for Stella and her husband, Stanley.
- *Fences*. August Wilson. This play explores themes of men and masculinity, sports and dreams, family relationships, the American Dream, Hopes, Betrayal, Freedom, and Plans that don't always work out in the end.
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. William Shakespeare. Lysander loves Hermia, and Hermia loves Lysander. Hermia's father wants her to marry Demetrius. Hermia is given four days to choose between Demetrius, life in a nunnery, or a death sentence.

*Death of a Salesman*. Arthur Miller. Written in 1949, this Pulitzer Prize-winning play is a cornerstone of American literature. It explores the nature of the American Dream and what happens when our plans do not work out. It explores family, growing up, father-son relationships, betrayal, broken hearts, and materialism.

**Note-Taking Tips:** Use these questions to help you take notes/analyze your play as you read:

- What are the author's messages to the audience?
- How do these characters relate to you/people you know/society today?
- What happens to the characters, and how do they create the drama?
- Which characters are major /minor: who grows and learns?
- What do the main characters experience mentally, emotionally, psychologically, physically, and spiritually? What makes them grow? What do they learn?