

# Olathe East AP English Lit and Composition

Dear Senior AP Scholars,

Greetings! We are excited to work with you next year. The writing and analytical skills you have developed in previous years in AP Language and Honors English will serve you well in our classes. The senior class emphasizes intensive study of works from various genres and periods along with writing assignments focusing on the critical analysis of literature.

To ensure a successful beginning to next year, you should read one of the following contemporary novels:

- *Circe* by Madeline Miller
- *Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel

You should not choose a title you have already read, either on your own or for another class. It is best if you purchase or download your own copy; however, if this is not possible, please contact the teachers at your school at the emails listed below about getting a copy.

The work you do this summer is the foundation for the beginning of next year. You should complete your reading by the first day of class on Friday, August 14. All students will write an essay over their chosen title shortly after school starts, and we will continue working with these titles for the first 3-6 weeks of school with such activities as small group and whole class discussions, Socratic seminars, passage analysis, and creative projects. Therefore, if you do not read during the summer, you will be behind from the first day of school. You will not complete any written assignments during the summer; however, you may wish to annotate or take notes. Please see the additional information on the back of this page for during-reading suggestions.

You may earn college credit for senior AP Literature in one of two ways. First, you may choose to take the AP exam in May 2024. If you choose this route, college credit awarded depends on your AP exam score and what your chosen college awards. Second, you may enroll in College Now. Our one-year class counts as two classes at JCCC: Composition I and II; you will enroll and pay for each semester separately. If you are considering College Now, we recommend that you read further information about College Now at:

<https://www.jccc.edu/admissions/early-college/high-school-concurrent-enrollment/>

We are excited to work with you and anticipate a challenging, stimulating, and rewarding year. Please feel free to email us if you have any questions. We will check email periodically throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Olathe District Senior AP Teachers

Olathe East:            Stacy Goddard (sgoddardoe@olatheschools.org)  
                                 Heather Tow (htowoe@olatheschools.org)

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**Need help choosing a book? Read reviews at the following links:**

*Circe*: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/madeline-miller/circe/>

*Station Eleven*: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/emily-st-john-mandel/station-eleven/>

*Sing Unburied Sing*: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jesmyn-ward/sing-unburied-sing-ward/>

# Additional Information on the Summer Reading

As you read your novel, you should consider annotating, taking notes, or writing journal entries in order to help you analyze and remember important aspects of the novel. Although such work will not be collected for a grade, such work will be useful when we work with the novel in class as well as helping you process and retain the novel.

You might consider the following elements of the novel as you annotate or take notes:

## Structure

- Are events told sequentially? Does the author employ flashbacks or jumps in time?
- What is the central conflict of the novel? What makes the conflict complex and thought-provoking?

## Perspective

- Does the author use first or third person perspective?
- Is there one consistent perspective or does it shift?
- How does the perspective chosen affect your understanding of different characters?

## Setting

- What is the setting in terms of time, place, and situation?
- How does setting affect the plot and characters?

## Characters

- Is there a clear protagonist? If not, why not?
- Is there a clear antagonist? If not, why not?
- How is the reader supposed to feel about the main characters? What is the author's attitude towards them?
- Identify a couple of key dynamic relationships in the novel. What makes those relationships shift?

## Style

- How would you characterize the writing style? Consider aspects like formality or informality, complexity of sentence structure and/or vocabulary, use of dialect, reliance on specific techniques like imagery and figurative language.

## Symbolism

- What objects, locations, words, or images in your novel convey symbolic meaning? (If you struggle to locate symbols, think first about anything that comes up frequently in the novel and seems to be meaningful to the characters.)

## Theme

A theme is a central message of a work. It makes an argument about life, human nature, or the human experience. It is NOT a single word.

NOT a theme: Revenge.

Theme: Revenge can lead to momentary satisfaction but not long-term fulfillment.

- What themes can you identify from your novel? Consider what the author seems to think about what makes life meaningful, what brings characters happiness or redemption, or what people tend to be like.

## Get the most out of the upcoming year

It is important to know what kind of credit you will work towards this year. In the chart below, list your top three college choices. Look at their registrar's page and find what credit they accept so you know if you plan to take the AP exam or if you plan to take the class for College Now (JCCC) credit. Complete the following:

<b>School</b>	<b>Passing AP Lang Score</b>	<b>Name of course the passing score will transfer as</b>	<b>Passing AP Lit Score</b>	<b>Name of course the passing score will transfer as</b>	<b>College Now Credit</b>

Did you take the AP Lang exam:

What score did you earn?

What Credit do you want to earn through AP Literature and Composition?

## Additional Summer Work

During your senior year of high school, you will be asked to write a college application essay in your English class. As a part of your summer work, you will need to go ahead and write the first draft of this essay. Your essay should be 500 words in length and should respond to a prompt from 1 of your top 3 schools or from the Common App.

Please keep the essay to approximately 500 words. Most colleges do ask for a word limit on the college application essay and expect prospective students to adhere to that length. Too, this needs to be typed and double-spaced. Also, if you know that you want to apply to a specific college, and the prompt from that college does not match one of those listed above, feel free to go ahead and respond to that prompt. Just make sure to include the prompt with the essay. You will submit this to Canvas/Turnitin.com on your first day of class in August.

### SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Johnson County Community College requires that students make a minimum of 19 on the English section of the ACT exam before enrolling in Composition I. If you plan to take the course for JCCC credit and haven't taken the ACT or haven't scored at least a 19 on the English section, you will need to take JCCC's admission exam before enrolling. The enrollment date is very soon after school starts in the fall, so you should check about tests this summer.
2. Colleges and universities have varying policies about accepting Advanced Placement and community college transfer credit. You should check with the schools you are considering to determine which avenue for college credit is best for you.
3. During the year we'll read *Frankenstein*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Awakening*, *Ethan Frome*, *All the Light We Cannot See*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* if you would like to get a start on any of them.
4. The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival traditionally performs a Shakespeare play at its outdoor series in June and July. You might enjoy getting together with a group to see the play and get your ear attuned to Shakespearean language.
5. If you have any questions about the class or the summer reading, please call the school with a message for either of us and we will call you back as soon as possible.

#### Summer Assignment Check List:

- Read one of the listed novels
- Write college application essay
- Investigate top three colleges for AP score and JCCC credit information