



**AICE Literature AS Level
Summer Reading 2026-2027
Short Stories Assignment**

Directions: Please print and read **all** six stories that are linked below. Please take pencil notes as you read. Please follow the directions on how to take pencil notes very carefully. Be ready to upload to Google Classroom and share and discuss. You must have your copy of the stories and notes on the first day of class.

Feel free to email Mrs. Lazere at natasha.lazere@palmbeachschools.org if you have any questions.

Links to Short Stories:

["The Black Veil"](#) by Charles Dickens

["The Tell-Tale Heart"](#) by Edgar Allan Poe

["Araby"](#) by James Joyce

["Atrophy"](#) by Edith Wharton

["The Woman at the Store"](#) by Katherine Mansfield

["A Lady's Beaded Bag"](#) by Tennessee Williams

Supplies: Please plan on having two three-subject college-ruled notebooks for class on the first day of school.

Pencil Notes Format:

Your pencil notes must be completed on a separate sheet of college-ruled paper. Please follow the instructions below exactly:

- **Proper MLA Heading:** In the **top left corner** of the page, include your **full name, my name, the course name, and the due date**. The heading should be single-spaced.
- **Title:** Center the title of the story on the first line below the heading. The title should be in **quotation marks** and include the author's name in parentheses immediately following the title.
- **Note-Taking Body:** For each page of the story, you will create a new entry. At the top of each entry, you will write the page number. Each entry must include the following three components:

1. **Characters:** List any characters mentioned on the page and provide a brief description of each. Include their relationships to other characters if applicable.
2. **Setting:** Describe any settings mentioned on the page. Be specific and note any details that contribute to the atmosphere or mood.
3. **Plot Summary:** Write a concise summary of what happened on that specific page. Focus on the main events and any significant developments.

Remember, this process is for every single page of the story. This will ensure you don't miss any important details.

This format is a bit different, but it will help you actively engage with the text and build a more thorough understanding of the material.

Example:

Here's a quick example of what your notes should look like:

John Doe
Mrs. Smith
AICE Literature AS
10 August 2026

"The Black Veil" Charles Dickens

Page 1

- **Characters:** John (main character, a young man leaving his home for the first time), Mary (John's mother, worried about his journey).
- **Setting:** A small, rustic cottage in the countryside; the setting feels cozy and familiar but also confining.
- **Plot Summary:** John is packing his bags, preparing to leave his family's cottage. His mother, Mary, watches him with a mix of pride and sadness. She gives him a small locket before he steps outside.