

Waco ISD Advanced Academics
AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2026

1. Select two of the following novels:

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

The Professor's House by Willa Cather

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

2. After reading each novel, respond to the following questions (in paragraph form and in order):

- Write a brief synopsis of the novel.
- Identify and explain the function of the main protagonist and main antagonist in the plot. How do they advance the plot? How do they interact with each other? How do they symbolize the author's ideals?
- Explain the function of the setting in the plot. How does the setting affect the narration?
- How does the setting affect the characters in the story? What is the significance of the plot to the author's ideals?
- Explain the function of the narration throughout the plot. How does the narration advance the plot? How does the narration help us understand and connect to the characters?

- Explain the types of figurative language that the author uses throughout the story. Are there allusions? How rich is the imagery? How unique is the style used in comparison to other novels of the same genre?
- Write a critique of the novel. Share some insight into the positive and negative points regarding the novel.

Or

1. Create a graphic organizer that depicts how diction, imagery, syntax, and tone are used in the novel. Illustrate and use an adjective to describe each element, using textual evidence. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly conveys both the narrator’s and other characters’ perceptions of the main character.

2. Consider the plot events in the novel. Create a graphic organizer that conveys specific detail (physical descriptions, daily events, etc.) from the text that indicates the setting of each event. Write a brief explanation of the details of setting underneath each event, including textual evidence. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly states the meaning of the setting.

3. Brainstorm a list of events and choose one event that you believe to be the most significant in the novel. Find textual evidence that supports this. Create a graphic organizer that depicts this central event and shows secondary events that are connected to the main one. Be sure you explain the connections. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly states how this central event helps uncover the author’s meaning of the text as a whole.

4. After reading the novel, develop a graphic organizer that coordinates the following: key details about the mother that the narrator provides, plausible

explanations for how the narrator could know these key details, and key details about the main character that the narrator does not provide. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that explains whether the narrator is reliable, drawing on textual evidence for support.

5. Using the novel, pick four of the most important images and two of the most important symbols. Then, identify an abstract noun (thematic idea) that each image conveys. Create a graphic organizer that depicts these images and symbols, illustrating each and using multiple textual examples. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly explains how the individual images and symbols work together to convey meaning in the story.