

Gibbs High School

2026-2027 Summer Reading

English II Honors

Contact Information

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Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Miller if you have questions!!

Overview

You will be reading two (2) novels and one (1) play: *1984*, a novel of your choice from a provided list, and *Twelve Angry Men*.

You are expected to:

- 1) Read and create a Dialectical Journal for *1984*
- 2) Read and create a Dialectical Journal for *Twelve Angry Men*
- 3) Read and create a Dialectical Journal for a third novel of your choice from the provided list.

All of your assignments listed above will all be completed and submitted on notebook paper stapled together. You should have a title page for your packet and each novel's pages should be labeled.

Due Date for Summer Reading Assignments: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026
Regardless of which semester you take the class!

Course Expectations

This is an Honors-level course which will prepare you for AP Literature & Composition. AP Courses demand rigorous, college-level curriculum and the expectations of effort, and those same demands will be expected in Honors English 2.

Honors English 2 will use the county-approved SpringBoard Curriculum, but will also touch on other works to prepare students for AP Literature in their junior year. You will develop the skills necessary to comprehend and analyze these texts through discussion and composition. Students are expected to write constantly and deliberately. **By the end of the course, you should be well-prepared to deepen your analysis skills in AP Literature.**

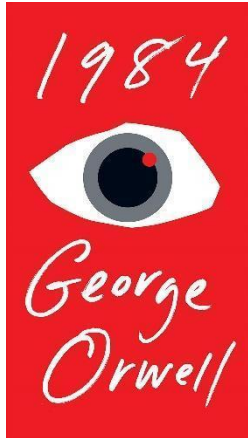
As an Honors student, you are expected to complete these Summer Reading assignments before the start of our class in August.

No late summer assignments will be accepted. There is no reason for an Honors student to begin this course without the work. You are responsible for completing your work.

Most importantly, I expect you to complete your assignments independently. Do **NOT** use Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, internet sites, movie versions, etc. because I want to know your thoughts and interactions regarding these novels rather than another scholar's criticism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will be asked to sign a "Reading Pledge upon entering the classroom."

Required Novels

1984 by George Orwell



Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*

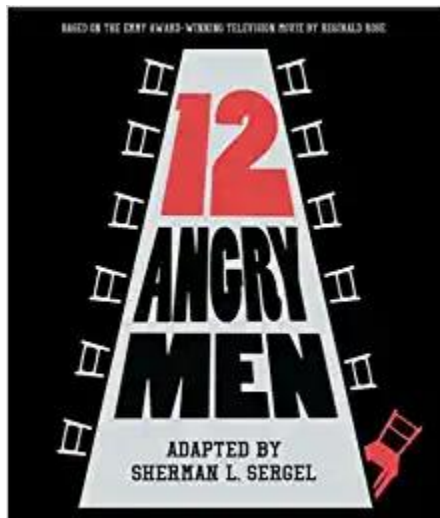
"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

A startling and haunting novel, *1984* creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions—a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time. [Amazon.com]

Parental Advisory: This novel contains some violence, sexual references, and mild language.

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose



A blistering character study and an examination of the American melting pot and the judicial system that keeps it in check, holds at its core a deeply patriotic faith in the U.S. legal system. The play centers on Juror Eight, who is at first the sole holdout in an 11-1 guilty vote. Eight sets his sights not on proving the other jurors wrong but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear-eyed way not affected by their personal prejudices or biases. Reginald Rose deliberately and carefully peels away the layers of artifice from the men and allows a fuller picture to form of them—and of America, at its best and worst.

After the critically acclaimed teleplay aired in 1954, this landmark American drama went on to become a cinematic masterpiece in 1957 starring Henry Fonda, for which Rose wrote the adaptation. More recently, had a successful, and award-winning, run on Broadway.

NOTE: Should an alternate title be requested for either title above, the request must be submitted to Mrs. Miller AND Mrs. Fry no later than July 16, 2025 via email.



3rd Required Novel - AP Choice Title List

As you consider which one (1) novel you want to read, I strongly encourage you to conduct a GoodReads or Amazon search for a summary of each title as well as utilizing commonsensemedia.org in order to make an informed choice based on your findings. Maybe you prefer something short or something easy. Maybe your selection will be based on what you find interesting or intriguing. It does not matter in the least to me which novel you choose. After the school year is established, you will be expected to write an essay based on a choice of prompts for this novel. The purpose of reading this choice novel is to help build your personal “library” of classic literature. This knowledge will help you succeed on the AP Literature Free Response Question #3 in the future. Remember, this cannot be the same title you chose for English 9 Honors.

PARENTAL ADVISORY: Parents should read the statement above and monitor the choice of book from the list below for any objectionable content and help their student make a choice accordingly.

An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser

'An American Tragedy' is the story of Clyde Griffiths, who spends his life in the desperate pursuit of success. On a deeper, more profound level, it is the masterful portrayal of the society whose values both shape Clyde's ambitions and seal his fate; it is an unsurpassed depiction of the harsh realities of American life and of the dark side of the American dream. Extraordinary in scope and power, vivid in its sense of wholesale human waste, unceasing in its rich compassion, 'An American Tragedy' stands as Theodore Dreiser's supreme achievement. [Goodreads.com]

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, wanders through the slums of St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck. Only Sonya, a downtrodden sex worker, can offer the chance of redemption. [Goodreads.com]

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

'In what may be Dickens's best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride. [Goodreads.com]

***Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison**

As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspenseful and sardonic, narrated in a voice that takes in the symphonic range of the American language, black and white, *Invisible Man* is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our century. [Goodreads.com]

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard.

But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again? [Goodreads.com]

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

Heart of Darkness, a novel by Joseph Conrad, was originally a three-part series in Blackwood's Magazine in 1899. It is a story within a story, following a character named Charlie Marlow, who recounts his adventure to a group of men onboard an anchored ship. The story told is of his early life as a ferry boat captain. Although his job was to transport ivory downriver, Charlie develops an interest in investing in an ivory procurement agent, Kurtz, who is employed by the government. Preceded by his reputation as a brilliant emissary of progress, Kurtz has now established himself as a god among the natives in "one of the darkest places on earth." Marlow suspects something else of Kurtz: he has gone mad. [Goodreads.com]

NOTE: While this is definitely a shorter text, it is extremely complex in both its writing style and its content. Please be thoughtful if you choose this novel.

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

A nineteenth-century boy from a Mississippi River town recounts his adventures as he travels down the river with a runaway slave, encountering a family involved in a feud, two scoundrels pretending to be royalty, and Tom Sawyer's aunt who mistakes him for Tom. [Goodreads.com]

***Moby Dick* by Herman Melville**

In part, *Moby Dick* is the story of an eerily compelling madman pursuing an unholy war against a creature as vast and dangerous and unknowable as the sea itself. But more than just a novel of adventure, more than an encyclopedia of whaling lore and legend, the book can be seen as part of its author's lifelong meditation on America. Written with wonderfully redemptive humor, *Moby Dick* is also a profound inquiry into character, faith, and the nature of perception. [Goodreads.com]

***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Hester Prynne, a young woman who has borne a child out of wedlock, is forced to wear the scarlet letter A on her dress as punishment for her sin. As both a badge of shame and a beautifully wrought human artifact, it reflects the many oppositions in the novel, such as those between order and transgression, civilization and wilderness, the town and the surrounding forest, adulthood and childhood. [Amazon.com]

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

Brave New World is a dystopian novel by English author Aldous Huxley, written in 1931 and published in 1932. Largely set in a futuristic World State, inhabited by genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society which is challenged by only a single individual: the story's protagonist. [Goodreads.com]

***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

When first published in 1899, *The Awakening* shocked readers with its honest treatment of female marital infidelity. Audiences accustomed to the pieties of late Victorian romantic fiction were taken aback by Chopin's daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage, who seeks and finds passionate physical love outside the confines of her domestic situation.

Aside from its unusually frank treatment of a then-controversial subject, the novel is widely admired today for its literary qualities. Edmund Wilson characterized it as a work "quite uninhibited and beautifully written, which anticipates D. H. Lawrence in its treatment of infidelity." Although the theme of marital infidelity no longer shocks, few novels have plumbed the psychology of a woman involved in an illicit relationship with the perception, artistry, and honesty that Kate Chopin brought to *The Awakening*. [Goodreads.com]

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

A powerful cultural touchstone of modern American literature, *The Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then the sisters to each other despite the unknown, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia and their experience. *The Color Purple* broke the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, narrating the lives of women through their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, Alice Walker's epic carries readers on a spirit-affirming journey towards redemption and love.

***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

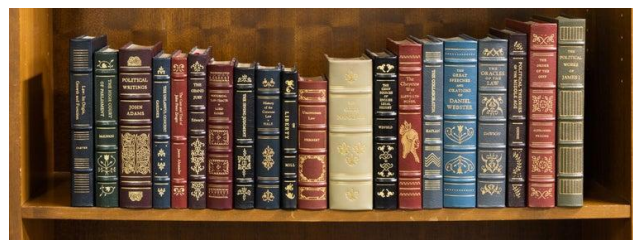
Since its immediate success in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England. [Goodreads.com]

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift**

Gulliver's Travels describes the four voyages of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon. In Lilliput he discovers a world in miniature; towering over the people and their city, he is able to view their society from the viewpoint of a god. However, in Brobdingnag, a land of giants, tiny Gulliver himself comes under observation, exhibited as a curiosity at markets and fairs. In Laputa, a flying island, he encounters a society of speculators and projectors who have lost all grip on everyday reality; while they plan and calculate, their country lies in ruins. Gulliver's final voyage takes him to the land of the Houyhnhnms, gentle horses whom he quickly comes to admire - in contrast to the Yahoos, filthy bestial creatures who bear a disturbing resemblance to humans. [Goodreads.com]

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

The story grew out of a map that led to imaginary treasure, devised during a holiday in Scotland by Stevenson and his nephew. The tale is told by an adventurous boy, Jim Hawkins, who gets hold of treasure map and sets off with an adult crew in search of the buried treasure. Among the crew, however, is the treacherous Long John Silver who is determined to keep the treasure for himself. Stevenson's first full-length work of fiction brought him immediate fame and continues to captivate readers of all ages. [Goodreads.com]



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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: All of your assignments listed below will all be completed and submitted on notebook paper stapled together. You should have the title page for your packet (included on page 11 of this packet) and each novel's pages should be labeled. You can have more than one journal entry per page - they do not need to be separated.

When you return to school, we will be discussing characterization, plot, theme analysis and more so pay attention for these details as you complete your journal entries.

Summer Reading Written Assignments

Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2026

Assignment #1 – Dialectical Journal of 1984

Read *1984* and keep a detailed Dialectical Journal of the novel. You should have at least 30 journal entries and they should be from varied sections of the novel (beginning, middle, end). The format and instructions for a dialectical journal can be found on pages 8 – 9 of this packet.

Assignment #2 – Dialectical Journal of *Twelve Angry Men*

Read *Twelve Angry Men* and keep a detailed Dialectical Journal of the play. You should have at least 15 journal entries and they should be from varied sections of the play (beginning, middle, end). The format and instructions for a dialectical journal can be found on pages 8 – 9 of this packet.

Assignment #3 - Dialectical Journal of Choice Novel

Read your choice novel and keep a detailed Dialectical Journal of the text. You should have at least 15 journal entries and they should be from varied sections of the novel (beginning, middle, end). The format and instructions for a dialectical journal can be found on pages 8 – 9 of this packet.

DIALECTICAL JOURNALS

What is a dialectical journal? According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, “dialectical” means “relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions.” As we read poetry, short fiction, dramas and novels this year, you will be asked to keep track of your thinking in a specific way. For some of the major work we read as a class, you will be practicing your close reading skills by keeping notes. These notes will serve you well in various ways: they might provide some content for an essay, they might prepare you for a seminar discussion, they might help you to formulate questions about the work, its author, or its time period, and they should serve as a source for review prior to any tests. The overall goal of keeping this type of journal is to record what you are thinking as you are reading, so that your impressions, questions, and ideas about the text are not lost.

How do I create these notes? The setup is simple. At the top of the page, list the title and author of the work. Divide your paper in half vertically. At the top of the left hand column, write “quotes,” and at the top of the right hand column, write “notes.” Journals must be handwritten and legible! Write carefully!

What might a sample dialectical journal entry look like? Think of this journal as a place for you to interact with the text. As we read, we often have “Aha!” moments. Something on the page really resonates with us for some reason. Copy that portion of the text, citing its page number. Use of ellipsis (...) is fine for long quotes. Then, record your thoughts about the language use, a word that confuses or intrigues you, plot, characterization, theme, allusion, a personal interpretation, a connection to other texts or to your own life. [You can see a sample journal entry on the next page.](#)

Feel free to use any/all of the following in your dialectical journal entries:

1. Quotes that reveal significant details about characterization (this could be just good character description, details that surprised you; characterization that seems out of the ordinary for the character; characterization that marks an important change in the character, etc.)
2. Passages that you feel a strong reaction to – this could include areas that cause you to feel confusion, anger, agreement, disagreement...etc. You can also include questions you have as you're reading here.
3. Passages or lines that include especially resonant (strong) description – record the passage on the left side of your journal, and then comment about that description on the right hand side. What techniques/literary devices does the author use to create this passage? What makes it strong writing?
4. Lines or passages that reveal symbolism, motifs, or themes – explain how the selected passage accomplishes these things.
5. Specific examples of the author's style – again, write out the line and then comment upon it on the right hand side.
6. Start with a quotation from a chapter and comment on it – connect it to something larger than the book itself. Why is it important to society or to the human condition in a universal sense?
7. Read between the lines: Sometimes it's what characters don't say that matters. Cite a passage and explain what's really going on. Show how you know this.
8. Cite and explain an ironic passage. How does irony function in this work?
9. Choose a passage and look closely at the literary devices the author uses to create meaning in the passage. Such devices could include diction, figurative language, imagery, syntax, tone, mood, characterization, etc.

****Choose your entries from varying sections of the novel: some from the beginning, middle, and end.**

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry

Title by Author

Quotes	Notes
Within the left-hand column, you will record text directly as it appears in the text. If you need to write more than two sentences, you may paraphrase or summarize, but still be sure to include the page or line numbers.	Within the right hand column you must explain the significance of the passage you recorded. Significance is a broad term and it includes a discussion of themes revealed/developed, insight into a character, an explanation of a literary device, and/or how the event may influence the plot.

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Submission Title Page

You will tear this document off of the back of your packet.
This will be inserted into the front cover of your composition notebook.

Your Name

Student ID Number

Semester and block you have Ms. Blaylock (Mrs. Miller)

Assignment Check List

	Check off assignments as you complete them and label them within your composition notebook.	
	Assignment #1 – Dialectical Journal of <i>1984</i>	_____ / 50 pts
	Assignment #2 – Dialectical Journal of <i>Twelve Angry Men</i>	_____ / 25 pts
	Assignment #3 - Dialectical Journal of Choice Novel	_____ / 25 pts
	Following assignment submission directions/formatting	_____ / 15 pts

I declare that these assignments are my own work except where acknowledged (textual citations), and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part. I declare that I did not copy information from the internet or other sources to submit as my own.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____