



AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING 2026-2027

Rising juniors are required to read four texts this summer:

1. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
2. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
3. *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
4. Free choice book

For the three assigned texts, you will write a short, AP-style FRQ essay to be submitted via Blackbaud/TurnItIn on the first day of class in August. As you complete your work this summer, create an AP Lit folder on OneDrive and save your essays there so you can easily retrieve them. For your Choice Book, you may choose anything you want to read and have not read before, including non-fiction, biography, etc. You do not need to get this book approved; just choose something you will enjoy.

Summer Reading Essay Instructions

The number one most important thing for you to know before writing any of these essays is that I am only interested in YOUR thoughts and YOUR writing that comes directly from YOUR reading of the texts. Any use of resources outside of the book/play and your brain is prohibited and misses the point of this assignment entirely.

Each essay should be 400-600 words, MLA format; you are not required to use direct quotations from the texts. As you read the prompts below, remember that they are asking for YOUR analysis of the texts and not plot summary or the thoughts and opinions of someone else.

AP-Style Essay Prompts

1. Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*

Choose a work of fiction (*A Raisin in the Sun*) in which a literal or unconventional house serves as a significant symbol. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how this house contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2. John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*

Choose a work of fiction (*Of Mice and Men*) in which a complex friendship contributes to both a character's growth and to challenges the character faces. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how that friendship contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

3. Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Choose a work of fiction (*The Crucible*) in which acts of cruelty are thematically important to the work. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim and how the cruelty contributes to your interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

In all your responses you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.