AP English Literature and Composition - Summer Assignments

You'll need to read and annotate two books (one is required and one is your choice). Annotating in your books directly–or, if you prefer, keeping a composition notebook with your notes as you read–will help you. Your annotations should record details about characters, settings, plot, and themes, but you can also include your own questions, reactions, and interpretations.

REQUIRED: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
Pride and Prejudice begins with one of the most famous first lines in literature: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." We will examine this novel by looking at 4 Ms: money, manners, morals, and marriage. Feel free to watch the attached trailer before you start your reading adventure:

BritBox Exclusive Trailer I Pride & Prejudice: Restored in 4K starring Colin Firth & Jennif…

REQUIRED: One novel of your choosing *that has literary merit*

If a title has appeared on the open response FRQ on a previous AP Lit exam (see this list), it has "literary merit." You may also select a novel from previous grades' summer reading lists **that you have not already read** (e.g. *The Catcher in the Rye* was an option for 9th grade; you didn't read it then, but now you would like to).

If you did **not** take Honors American Literature, and you've never read *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby* or *Of Mice and Men*, you may choose one of those.

Many "AP-worthy" titles include content that may be disturbing or offensive to some readers. Please investigate the novel's content to make sure your selection is a good fit for you. In addition, consider the length of your choice–some are very long, but some are short.

I will keep a display of "AP worthy" novels in my classroom until the end of the school year for your perusal. **Do not choose a book you've already read, a book whose movie adaptation you have seen, a children's book, or a young adult book.** In addition, do not select *The Importance of Being Earnest, Frankenstein, The Chosen,* or *Klara and the Sun* for your summer read–I am considering these titles for our whole-class reads during the semester.

Suggested list of AP-worthy novels:

The Bonesetter's Daughter
Purple Hibiscus
Station Eleven
The Nickel Boys
A Thousand Splendid Suns
The Poisonwood Bible
Where the Crawdads Sing
True Grit
The Haunting of Hill House
One Hundred Years of Solitude
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
The Metamorphosis
Little Fires Everywhere
1984
Life of Pi
Homegoing
A Prayer for Owen Meany
The Handmaid's Tale
Catch-22
The Things They Carried
Things Fall Apart
Slaughterhouse-Five
Brave New World
The Women of Brewster Place

During the first week of school, you will be held accountable for reading these two texts. It is your responsibility to be done reading by that point, and extensions will not be granted. Expect writing prompts, discussions, and creative assignments. It's important that you pay meticulous attention to detail and take some kind of notes while you read.

PLEASE NOTE: Summer reading cannot be put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Some of the reading will be difficult. Plan ahead; give yourself enough time to switch texts if you find one that you do not like. You are expected to obtain paper copies of the books through the bookstore, a library, or borrowing from a friend. If you consult outside sources to aid your understanding, they should supplement, not replace, your reading of the books in their entirety.

Remember, you are making a commitment as an AP Literature student. Please plan accordingly with your time. If you lose this list, you can find it on the school website.

I look forward to working with you! Feel free to email me with any questions.

Happy reading,

Ms. Bradburn

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