# AP Literature 26-27 Summer Reading

## Disclaimer:

One or more of these works may deal with mature themes, ideas, and language. We may not acknowledge or condone these instances, if any at all. Rather, it is our job as readers and students of the world to investigate these works as if we are doctors examining a patient. Our intention is to learn from these works, becoming improved practitioners of thought. *This AP literature class is intended to serve as a surrogate to or for a college literature class where writings are judged upon merit without regard for every social norm; therefore, a mature perspective is required and necessary.*

## The Literature:

We will be reading one book this summer: *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess. This will be the first book that we study in the fall, so it is imperative that you read it intentionally and with great care. Just like a college class, students are expected to access the readings on their own; therefore, it is highly recommended that you purchase your own copy to highlight and annotate. You are welcome to use whichever format you prefer (physical/digital) so long as you have access to it.

# Reading List (non-exhaustive and subject to change):

**Fall:**

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess (read over the summer)
Dracula by Bram Stoker
The Last Wish by Andrzej Sapkowski
Paradise Lost by John Milton
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick
Watchmen by Alan Moore

**Spring:**

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
No Exit by Jean-Paul Sartre
Batman: Ego by Darwyn Cooke
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf by Edward Albee
The Road by Cormac McCarthy

*You will only need one of the following, but you should wait until school starts before you obtain it (but by all means, read them all)*:

The Stranger by Albert Camus
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Othello by William Shakespeare
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut

## Contact:

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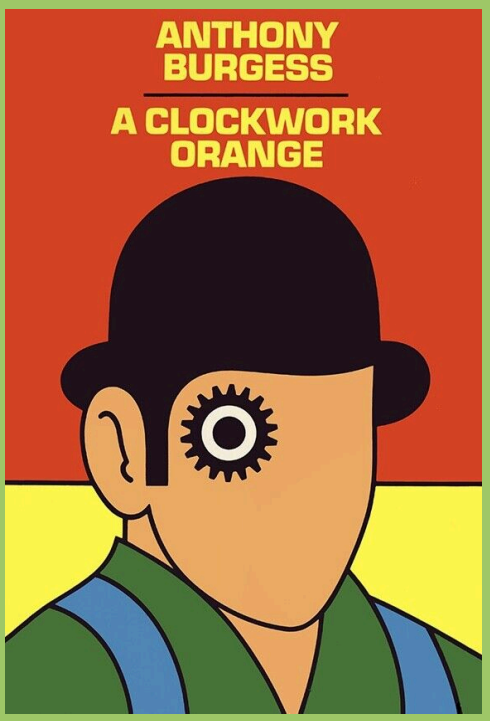
I will check my email at least once a week throughout the summer. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns about the readings or the course itself. I will be more than happy to assist you.



# Summer Assignment: Attestation

While reading *A Clockwork Orange,* try and identify something unique about each novel that you are sure no one else is going to catch (it can be something thematic, stylistic, or character-based). Once you have identified it, write a brief response (approximately 300 words) that explains your understanding of your unique findings. Make sure that you avoid discussing the obvious. The purpose of this assignment is to prepare you for this course and subsequently the AP exam. You have to hone your detective skills, relying on all of your senses as you read, to enhance your understanding of perception. You will be graded on the uniqueness of whatever you have identified in addition to your ability to explain and defend it *(justify your rationale)*. You may need to paraphrase information, so do not forget to properly cite your sources if you do.

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**Partial Ex**. Through the smog of Mordor, the desolate, blackened home of The Dark Lord Sauron, Samwise Gamgee spies a singular star. Throughout *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Sam and Frodo chase the eye of Sauron atop Barad-dûr–a symbol of unchecked evil, ego, and totalitarian control. Here, in this moment though, they have found a new, literal star to steer by–one that represents a quiet, mystical affirmation that evil can never completely snuff out the light. The star is a symbol of divination, piercing through the might of Sauron's seemingly unending wickedness and despair. This brief glimmer of hope echoes Tolkien's own experience during the Battle of Somme in the first world war. Coated in mud, surrounded by unimaginable horrors, Tolkien witnessed firsthand how small moments, like the presence of a star in the night sky, could cut through the darkness. Beauty and goodness can endure–stubbornly–even in the grimmest of circumstances.

Do not do this: I noticed the Ring is evil. It corrupts people. I noticed a lot of walking.

***The goal is to put the novel under a microscope and examine it beyond surface level. Do not use things like SparkNotes–summaries will gloss over the finer details that you should be looking for.***