

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER READING 2026

You will select two works from each category and compose a one-page analysis that investigates how the author develops one of the archetypal themes of literature (i.e., “Evil is real” or “Appearance differs from reality”).

Short Fiction:

Mary Shelley’s “The Mortal Immortal”

Flannery O’Connor’s “A Good Man is Hard to Find”

William Faulkner’s “Barn Burning”

Joyce Carol Oates’s “Where Are You Going”

Martin Amis’ “The Last Days of Muhammad Atta”

Doris Lessing’s “To Room Nineteen”

Margaret Atwood’s “Death by Landscape”

Poetry:

John Donne’s “Valediction Preventing Morning”

John Donne’s “Love’s Alchemy”

John Milton’s “Lycidas”

Coleridge’s “The Eolian Harp”

Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Ozymandias"

John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale"

Tennyson's "Tithonus"

Emily Bronte's "No Coward Soul is Mine"

William Butler Yeats' "Man and Echo"

T.S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men"

Dylan Thomas' "Fern Hill"

Novels:

Cormac McCarthy's Blood Meridian

Thomas Hardy's Tess of the d'urbervilles

Toni Morrison's Beloved

Dostoyevsky's The Possessed

Yukio Mishima's Spring Snow

William Faulkner's Sanctuary

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein