AP Literature

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

All summer reading work for this course is due on the designated date. Failure to turn in any part of the summer reading assignment will result in removal from the class. Please contact me at cburnette@bullochacademy.com with any questions!

Summer reading for AP Literature will consist of 2 assignments. Both assignments are due in class on the first day of school.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

- The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards: On a winter night in 1964 in Lexington, Kentucky, a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child herself. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century—in which these two families, ignorant of each other, are yet bound by the fateful decision made that winter night long ago.

- Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng: In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs. Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Assignment #1: Novel Analysis

Everything on the AP Literature exam goes back to theme. You are always asked to look at something small (ex: a character with an ideal view of the world, acts of cruelty) and analyze how those elements connect to the novel as a whole (theme). You will choose 6 most important moments or scenes to analyze. For each moment/scene, you will write a HANDWRITTEN summary and explain the significance of this scene in the novel as a whole. For the summary, this should be an **analytical summary with specific evidence (feel free to include literary devices)**, going beyond just stating facts and plot points. For the significance, you want to include how **this scene connects to a chosen theme of the novel.**

What will I turn in?

1. Handwritten analysis of your 6 scenes, 1 per scene. These should be at least one half page each handwritten and all should mention how they contribute to the theme.
2. A visual component that ties all 6 themes together to display how your chosen theme is evident in the novel. Your visual can be one of the following options:
    - A video discussing the scenes (must be at least 5 minutes long)
    - A drawing of each scene with clear visuals to tie everything together
    - One larger drawing with 6 clear components (like symbols or objects) that connect to each scene and your chosen theme. If you choose this, you probably will need to use a poster to have enough space.

#2: Poetry Vocabulary

A large portion of AP Literature is dedicated to understanding and analyzing poetry. Familiarize yourself with the poetry "vocabulary" words- many of these are already familiar literary devices. **We will take a quiz over these terms during the second week of school!!** They can be found in this Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/_6l1lrd

Choose 1 song that you enjoy. Use the TSWIFT chart on the next page to analyze the song. You can pick absolutely any song you want, but if you find yourself struggling to complete all parts of TSWIFT, you may want to search for a different one.

TSWIFT: POETRY ANALYSIS

Title	Before you even think about reading the poetry or trying to analyze it, speculate what you think the poem might be about based upon the title. Often, authors conceal meaning and give clues in the title.
Summary/ Structure	Before you begin thinking about deeper meaning, don't overlook the literal meaning of the poem. One of the biggest mistakes students often make in poetry analysis is jumping to conclusions before understanding what is taking place in the poem. You can either summarize the situation in the poem in a sentence, or it can be helpful to go line by line. Then, look at the structure of the poem. Rarely does a poem begin and end the poetic experience in the same place. As is true of most of us, the poet's understanding of an experience is a gradual realization, and the poem is a reflection of that understanding or insight. Watch for the following keys to shifts: ● Key words, (but, yet, however, although) ● Punctuation (dashes, periods, colons, ellipsis) ● Stanza divisions; Changes in line or stanza length or both ● Irony ● Changes in sound that may indicate changes in meaning ● Changes in diction
Word Choice	Analyze the diction and syntax in the poem. Look for any categories that words could be grouped into and consider why that choice was made. You also may consider specific words/phrases that really stand out to you and impact your experience as a reader.
Imagery / Figurative Language	Analyze any sensory details in the poem and what they convey. Then, consider any types of figurative language that you notice. What is the purpose of the comparison being made?
Tone/ Theme	Having examined the poem's devices and clues closely, think about the tone of the poem and how the author has created it. Remember that usually the tone or attitude cannot be named with a single word - think complexity! What is the poem saying about the human experience, motivation, or condition? What subject or subjects does the poem address? What do you learn about those subjects? What idea does the poet want you to take away with you concerning these subjects? Remember that the theme of any work of literature is stated in a complete sentence and make sure to avoid cliches.

	EVIDENCE	SIGNIFICANCE
Title		
Summary/ Structure		
Word Choice		
Imagery / Figurative Language		
Tone/ Theme		