

AP Literature and Composition
Summer Reading 2026-27
Mrs. Rushworth-Hollander

Dear student,

Prior to the senior Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course, you are assigned three required readings that should be completed before you begin the class. These can likely be obtained from area bookstores, a library, online sites, etc.

Required Summer Readings:

- **1984**: the classic dystopian novel by George Orwell
- **Oedipus Rex**: Sophocles' noted tragedy
- **There There**: award winning novel by Tommy Orange which follows twelve interconnected Native American characters from their communities.

You will take an **objective test** over all the required works and write **one major timed in-class essay** using them as well. In addition, the first major out of class **literary paper and presentation** will be based on one of these works.

Please read the works and take notes as you read; do not accept an internet site summary or "analysis" as a substitute.

The objective test will be open book and timed. Students may have a physical copy of the work – no electronic versions – with notes or annotations. The test is timed, so students will not have time to read lengthy passages during the test and expect to find answers. Those who have read and prepared should be able to use the text as a quick reference when needed. The in-class essay will **not** be open book.

During the course, you will also need to complete both independent and class guided readings. You will be tested on and/or write an essay for each book. These works may include, but are not limited to:

- **Brave New World** – Aldous Huxley (class set provided)
- **The Tragedy of Macbeth** – Shakespeare (class set provided)
- **Sing, Unburied, Sing** – Jesmyn Ward (must be purchased)
- **Multiple Independent readings assigned from a larger AP level novel list** – to be assigned later

These works are in addition to the various “guided” readings completed during the course including poetry, drama, short stories, and other literature excerpts.

Please note the Course Description from College Board's website when considering the value of these works: *The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.*

I look forward to working with you next year!

Mrs. Rushworth-Hollander