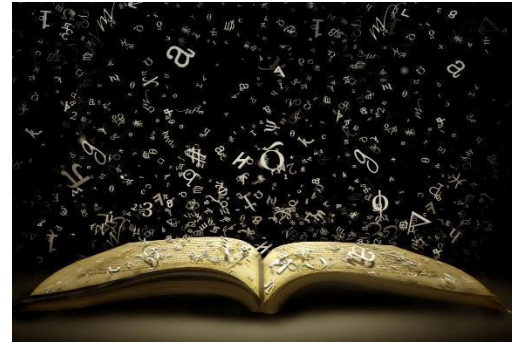


Welcome to English 4AP!

2026 Summer Reading Directions

You are required to read **3 texts** for English 4AP:

1. *Fences* by August Wilson
2. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
3. ONE from the following list:
 - *Beloved* by T. Morrison
 - *Enemy of the People/A Doll's House* by H. Ibsen (You must read **both** plays.)
 - *Firekeeper's Daughter* by A. Bouley
 - *All the Light We Cannot See* by A. Doerr
 - *Station Eleven* by E. St. John Mandel
 - *Brave New World* by A. Huxley



Note: Please purchase print or digital copies of *Fences* and *The Kite Runner* as we will be using these texts in class in September.

Assignment for *Fences* and *The Kite Runner*:

Complete the attached **essay questions** below.

You will be writing ONE essay for *Fences*.

Conduct a close reading on a poem of your choosing that relates to the play and write a literary analysis in which you analyze the texts' connection to one of the themes below. The poem or song must be at least 14 lines and be written by a credited author. Within your analysis, please select **two quotes** from *Fences* that relate to the poem or song and cite the page number. Themes are listed below.

If you are interested in doing a different theme, please email Ms. Webber. Be sure to include the name and author of your piece in the analysis. *Suggested length: 3-4 paragraphs (Introduction that ends with a strong thesis statement, 1-2 body paragraphs, Conclusion)*

- The American Dream
- Ambition
- Loyalty
- Racism
- Masculinity

You will be writing ONE essay for *The Kite Runner*.

Choose ONE of the following.

Choice A: Many works of literature feature a character who holds a secret that can have broader implications for that character or other characters. For example, such secrets may create conflict, provide a source of consolation, protect characters from reality, or allow one character to manipulate other characters. Discuss how an important character in *The Kite Runner* holds a secret that affects that character's relationship with one or more other characters. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the effect of the character's secret contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. You must use at least **three quotes** from the novel and cite the page number. *Suggested length: 3-4 paragraphs (Introduction that ends with a strong thesis statement, 1-2 body paragraphs, Conclusion)*

Choice B: In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. In *The Kite Runner*, discuss which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim. Do not merely summarize the plot. You must use at least **three quotes** from the novel and cite the page number. *Suggested length: 3-4 paragraphs (Introduction that ends with a strong thesis statement, 1-2 body paragraphs, Conclusion)*

The essay questions will be turned in on the first day of class. There will also be an in class essay test on both these novels.

Assignment for Book of Choice: GOOGLE SLIDE PLAYLIST

- At the start of next school year we will break into small discussion groups to discuss your book of choice with others who read the same book. In preparation for this, we would like you to create a Google Slide or PPT presentation with a **cover slide** and **4 slides** that make up a personal playlist. Each slide should have a song, so **4 songs total**. Each slide should contain the following:

- Title of song and artist
- 2-3 lyrics from the song
- 3-4 sentences describing how the lyrics of the song connect to the content of your story
- An image that demonstrates the theme

Feel free to decorate/design as you wish - the more vibrant, the better!

At the beginning of the school year, you will present your book of choice to the class and we will share a link where all slides can be uploaded. This will also provide you with a useful resource in the spring as you prepare for the exam.

Do NOT use outside or AI resources to complete these assignments. If you do so, you are defeating the purpose of this assignment, which is to teach you how to read closely and analyze literary texts independently. We will be discussing how to use AI responsibly in the fall.

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to working with you next year.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ms. Kathy Webber kwebber@unioncatholic.org

Mrs. Kathleen Sagendorf ksagendorf@unioncatholic.org