



2026 Summer Reading Assignment Advanced Placement English Literature - Mrs. Pelfrey, 7-108

Read ONE book from the following list of choices. Students will take a “Book-It” test on **this book** sometime during the first two weeks of school. Choose a book of which you have NOT yet taken a Book It test ever (i.e. read something new!). All Book It tests for APE Lit must be taken during the 2026-2027 school year. You will also complete the Character Analysis Paper (outlined on the next page) for **this** book (We will discuss the requirements of this analysis paper during our first week of school, so you don’t complete it before then).

1. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
2. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
3. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
4. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
5. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
6. *Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
7. *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
8. *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
9. *Othello, Hamlet, OR King Lear* by William Shakespeare
10. *The Green Mile* by Stephen King
11. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
12. *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
13. *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
14. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
15. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
16. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
17. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
18. *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

If you have any questions or concerns over the summer, please don’t hesitate to contact me via my email address: marie.pelfrey@palmbeachschools.org .

You are going to write a character analysis paper on ONE of the books you have read this summer from the list on the previous page. You will select ONE character and follow him/her throughout the book. The format of your paper must follow the instructions below. It should be typed and double spaced (12 pt. Times New Roman). The paper's due date will be provided to you during the first week of school in August. Plan on turning in this character analysis by the second week of school.

Note: DO NOT WRITE THIS PAPER AS NUMBERED QUESTIONS/SECTIONS AND RESPONSES. INSTEAD, YOU WILL WRITE THIS AS A CONTINUOUS ESSAY WITH SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS. THERE SHOULD BE NO NUMBERING ON THE ANALYSIS. The numbers below denote the sections that are required to be included within your analysis.

Any pages quoted **MUST** include the page number in parenthesis.

1. Introduction (at least **one** paragraph):

Your introduction should give a BRIEF idea of the book as a whole.

2. Establish your character (at least **one** paragraph):

Paint a picture of who this person is.

Why is he/she important to the meaning of the novel as a whole?

Use quotes (2) from the book (put in the page numbers ... explain them; do not just put them into the paper.)

3. Other characters' impressions (at least **two** paragraphs)

What do some of the others say about this character?

How does this character help to influence their decisions and shape the novel as a whole?

Find quotes (3) from the novel and explain what they say about this person.

4. Pivotal decisions (at least **two** paragraphs):

What choices does the character have to make?

Do these decisions have an overall effect on the novel as a whole?

Use quotes (2) from the book and explain if the choices are good or bad choices and why.

5. Significant Actions (at least **two** paragraphs):

What actions does the character take that defines him/her or redefines him/her and the novel?

What does this character do that makes him/her important?

Use quotes (2) from the book describe the action taken and why was the action for the good of the community?

6. Key changes in the character (at least **two** paragraphs):

Explain the changes in the character during the course of the book.

Do the character changes help to shape and develop the overall meaning of the text? Use (3) quotes to explain and demonstrate through prose how they tell who the person was and who they have become

7. Conclusion (at least **one** paragraph):

Sum up the main points of the character you pointed out in the paper.