Summer Reading and Assignment for AP Literature Students 2026 - 2027

Welcome to AP Literature! This fourth-year English course focuses on essential analytical writing skills. You will learn how to examine various genres of literature from various time periods. You will study the author's craft and analyze the work and its impact on society. Your assignment is to choose one of the following novels and analyze the author's craft and the contribution this work makes to society. You will complete a flip book which will guide the analysis. This will be due on the first day of class.

Choose 1:

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (realistic fiction 840L)

1970s Afghanistan: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys could foresee what would happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that was to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realizes that one day he must return to an Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption. [war, violence, adult themes]

Kindred by Octavia E. Butler (science/historical fiction, 580L)

Kindred is a novel by American writer Octavia E. Butler that incorporates time travel and is modeled on slave narratives. Dana's torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner's plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present. [racism, violence, discrimination, adult themes]

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (historical fiction, 880L)

From Anthony Doerr, the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning authors of Cloud Cuckoo Land, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. [war, violence, adult themes]

Life of Pi by Yann Martel (fantasy, 830L)

A fantasy which won the Booker Prize in 2002, *Life of Pi* tells the magical story of a young Indian, who finds himself shipwrecked and lost at sea in a large lifeboat. His companions are four wild animals: an orangutan, a zebra, a hyena, and, most notably, Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger. [animal death, adult themes]

The Assignment: Novel (or Play) Flip Book Activity

Complete the flip book analysis for your book. The flip book will help you review the work before your AP Lit exam. You will be writing an AP style essay based on this work when you return to school. You will be able to use the flip book as a resource. The essay will count as a test grade. You will be given instructions on how to craft the essay prior to writing it in class.

Novel (or Play) Flip Book Activity

In this flip book activity, you will identify key literary elements from the assigned work; the goal is for this to help you prepare for in-class essays and, with appropriate works of literary merit, eventually the AP exam. You should save all your flip books as a review method for cumulative exams, and/or for use on the free-response question on the AP English Literature and Composition exam that asks you to write about a novel or play "of literary merit" of your choice.

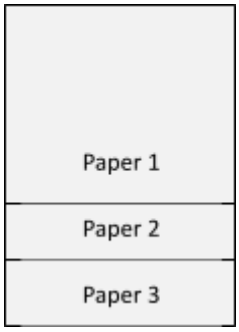
Many of the most successful students begin this assignment as they are reading the work. While it can be used as a culminating review activity, students often find it helpful to begin gathering information as they read, making changes and adjustments as necessary as the work reveals certain details.

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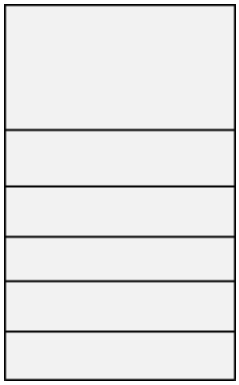
Directions:

This can be completed using 8 ½ x 11" paper, but you may choose to use legal size or create your own. The directions for folding will still be the same. You can also choose to create a "portrait" chart or one that is "landscape."

1. Layer three pieces of paper over one another using the example below:



2. Holding the three pieces of paper in place, fold them over, so the three papers end up looking like this:

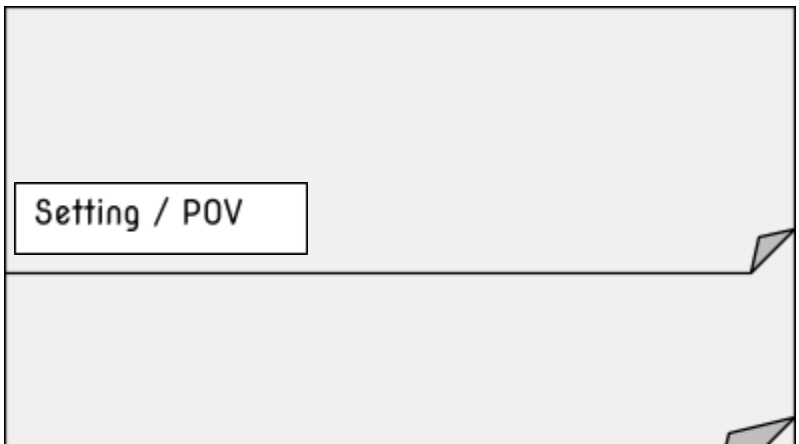


3. You now have six pages. Staple near the top by the fold (although you may consider waiting until you're done to do this) and label each page.

4. Each page of the flip book represents one of six different areas of focus. Include the following information on each page.

Consider completing **Page Two** (theme statement) **first**. This will help ensure all the other pages ***clearly relate to your theme statement***.

Page One: Include the **title** (underlined or italicized if typed), **author**, **setting** (time **and** place), **point of view** (if limited, identify to whom; if first person, identify narrator), and **a quote** (properly cited) that **demonstrates the POV.** Create a **new cover** illustrating a significant aspect of the text.



Page Two: Write a **theme statement** *clearly* identifying the meaning of the work as a whole. The theme should show complexity, go beyond the obvious, and not be a

cliché (check if you're unsure). Write **three to five additional sentences explaining** your theme statement **(with specific detail, not vague generalizations)**, being sure to include **and integrate** a minimum of one **quotation** from the work. Remember this statement must support everything else in your book.

Page Three: Explain one example of an **internal conflict** and **external conflict** from the text. **Write a paragraph for each** (minimum three sentences, including an integrated quotation from the text) and **label each paragraph** as "internal" or "external." Conflicts must be **significant** and **connected to your theme statement.**

Page Four: **Draw a picture** (supported by evidence in the text) **of three important characters. Label each character** by **type** (protagonist, antagonist, subordinate, flat, round, static, dynamic, stock, foil – DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TYPES). **For each character, include an explanation/justification** of the classification**. Include two integrated quotes** for each character that highlight important aspects of the character's personality (not appearance).

Page Five: **Draw a plot diagram** and include the events that make up the **exposition** (minimum of two—do not include character and setting; these have already been addressed), **rising action** (minimum of five in chronological order), **climax** (one; there is only one right answer; must come from the text; is the peak of action and nothing exciting occurs after this point), and **resolution** (minimum of two). **Label all parts and draw a plot diagram (no lists).**

Page Six: Identify any ***significant*** **literary devices** used in the text (minimum of **three different** devices). Provide an **integrated quotation** and a sentence explaining the **purpose** the literary technique serves in the text, as well as how that purpose reinforces the text's theme for each literary device. **(Choose devices that help to reveal your theme statement.)**

Theme

Conflict

Characters

Plot Diagram

Literary Devices

Be creative in your presentation. **Add color** to enhance your work and show creativity. Flip books that do not show care and creativity will be scored lower. You don't have to be an artist, but you should still demonstrate effort. Printing pictures of the actors in the movie version of the book does not demonstrate effort.

Note: If you inaccurately identify the point of view, setting, internal/external conflict, character type, or literary device, you will receive no credit for that item, as all your support will be in service of an incorrect answer.

Novel Flip Book Grading Rubric

Page One	
Title of Work (underlined if handwritten/italicized if typed)	_____ / 0.5
Author (spelled correctly; includes first and last name)	_____ / 0.5
Point of View – accurate identification (0.5); quotation reflecting accurate POV (0.5) *If POV is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 1
Setting – accurate identification of time (0.5) and place (0.5)	_____ / 1
New Cover – different from existing cover/Internet (0.5); reflects significant part of novel (0.5)	_____ / 1
Page Two	
Theme Statement (topic, cliché, moral, incomplete sentence, implausible = 0)	_____ / 1
Theme Paragraph – quotation supporting theme (0.5); plausible explanation (1); min. 3 add. sent. (0.5)	_____ / 2

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Page Three	
Internal conflict– accurate identification (0.5); plausible explanation **connected to theme statement**, min. 3 sent. (0.5); appropriate quotation (0.5) *If internal conflict is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 1.5
External conflict– accurate identification (0.5); plausible explanation **connected to theme statement**, min. 3 sent. (0.5); appropriate quotation (0.5) *If external conflict is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 1.5
Page Four	
Character #1 – char. type/evidence-based picture (0.5), 2 quotes establishing type (1), plausible explanation of type (1) *If character type is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Character #2 – char. type/evidence-based picture (0.5), 2 quotes establishing type (1), plausible explanation of type (1) *If character type is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Character #3 – char. type/evidence-based picture (0.5), 2 quotes establishing type (1), plausible explanation of type (1) *If character type is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Page Five	
Exposition – labeled; includes two details (no partial credit)	_____ / 1
Complications – labeled; includes five events **in chronological order** (no partial credit)	_____ / 1
Climax – labeled; includes one accurate event (no partial credit)	_____ / 1
Resolution – labeled; includes one event (no partial credit)	_____ / 1
Page Six	
Literary Device #1 – accurate identification (1), quotation reflects device (0.5), plausible purpose of device **as it connects to theme statement** (1) *If literary device is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Literary Device #2 – accurate identification (1), quotation reflects device (0.5), plausible purpose of device **as it connects to theme statement** (1) *If literary device is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Literary Device #3 – accurate identification (1), quotation reflects device (0.5), plausible purpose of device **as it connects to theme statement** (1) *If literary device is identified inaccurately, no points can be earned for this element.*	_____ / 2.5
Overall	

Quotation Integration & Grammar (5 = few or no errors; 3 = some errors; 0 = many errors)	_____ / 5
Care and Creativity	_____ / 1
TOTAL (out of 35 pts.)	**_____ / 35**