

TO: AP English Literature and Composition Students for 2026-27
RE: Summer Reading Obligations
DATE: 26 May 2026
FROM: Mrs. Cash

Your preparation for next year's 12th grade AP English Literature & Composition / Dual Enrollment class begins this summer! Please read this entire doc to p.12.

Reading widely and conscientiously builds a strong foundation for success in the AP course and on the AP test. **Over the summer you will read three novels:** William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Additionally, **you will complete a double-entry reading journal on ONE of the novels.** (See assigned journal list on the next page and the rubric.) Your reading journal will be due on the first day of school and counts as your first DK grade of the course. Be diligent! (Please note: Your AP Lit summer reading obligation replaces the summer reading requirement from Mrs. Small.)

Upon our return to school and following a review, you will be tested on each of the novels. **Although you are only required to complete and submit ONE formal reading journal, please keep your own reading notes for each novel.** As you read, you should take notes on point of view, narrative structure, character and plot details, repetition, contrast, connections to major themes, literary elements, and any questions about the reading. These notes not only aid your memory, but also improve your comprehension and your ability to analyze the novels in a thoughtful and purposeful way, one of the skills developed through this course.

I have provided links for online versions of the novels; however, I strongly recommend buying an inexpensive used copy for yourself so you can write in it.

Links to online novels: [LOTF](#) [AA](#) [BNW](#)

Please visit me in room 102 to sign out a copy of all of the novels.

Have a wonderful summer! I am truly looking forward to working together next year, and I will contact you midsummer to check in on your progress.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cash
scash@pgsd.org

Double-Entry Reading Journal Assignments

You will complete and submit a formal reading journal for the novel next to your name. (You should also take notes for yourself on the other two works.)

Student Name	Reading Journal Assigned for...
Asif, Malika	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Brinson, Imani	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
Butler, Jodi	<i>Brave New World</i>
Gray, Ray	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Jackson, Eric	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
Lin, Angel	<i>Brave New World</i>
Lin, Anna	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
McGuinness, Harley	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
McPhillimey, Jaclyn	<i>Brave New World</i>
Migdal, Joshua	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Nihart, Bryan	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
Rivera, Owen	<i>Brave New World</i>
Srour, Kareen	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Weikel, Grace	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>
Colfer, Maquire	<i>Brave New World</i>
Prindle, Julia	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Roeder, Reagan	<i>Angela's Ashes</i>

Summer Reading: Double-Entry Reading Journal RUBRIC

Criteria	Description	Points Possible
Content (total 8 pages of original notes)	Journal contains at least 2 pages of original notes for each quarter of the novel , such as character descriptions, key events, literary elements/devices: See the symbols or motifs below. (<u>NOT</u> from SparkNotes, Wikipedia, etc.)	_____/ 20
Quotations and Analysis (minimum 16 quotes, all with page#)	Journal contains at least 4 significant quotations for each quarter of the novel w/ (page#) and interpretation or analysis of each quotation (Minimum 16 direct quotations from novel)	_____/ 20
Reflection on Themes	Journal contains adequate and insightful consideration of three themes* in your notes. How do certain scenes, characters, and quotations develop the themes?	_____/10

TOTAL POINTS ____/ 50

*THEMES:

Lord of the Flies

1. Civilization versus savagery
2. Loss of innocence
3. The inherent evil of human beings / evil of human nature

SYMBOLS: the conch, specs, knife, fire

Angela's Ashes

1. Poverty and hunger
2. Ireland, Catholicism, Identity
3. Fatherhood / father absence / "the father wound"
4. Coming of age
5. Forgiveness, redemption, salvation

MOTIFS: stories/songs/folktales, guilt

Brave New World

1. Technology as a means to control society
2. The individual versus the collective
3. Happiness versus purpose and meaning
4. Suffering as part of the human condition / human experience

MOTIFS: Ford, alienation, Shakespeare

See SAMPLE DOUBLE-ENTRY READING JOURNAL on the NEXT PAGE . . .

Before you begin your journal, be sure to divide the novel into 4 reading sections, or quarters.

NAME _____ NOVEL _____

Double-Entry Reading Journal (1st quarter of novel, pages ____ - ____)

Fill in the page numbers of this section.

3 Themes: (copy from previous page)

Summary of Reading

- **point of view, setting, characters, basic plot details, repetition, contrast, literary elements, etc.**
- Abridged and in your own words
- Connect to theme whenever possible

4 Significant Quotes (narration or dialogue)

- Choose quotes that seem significant to you *OR* are connected to a theme. **(record PAGE#)**
- *Do NOT choose quotes supplied by SparkNotes, etc!*

My Questions about the Text

- Write any questions you have at this point.

My Interpretation/Analysis of Each Quote

- Explain the meaning of each quote *AND/OR* how it connects to a theme.

My Predictions about the Text

- Write what you think may happen next.

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NAME _____ NOVEL _____

Double-Entry Reading Journal (2nd quarter of novel, pages ____ - ____)

Fill in the page numbers of this section.

3 Themes:

Summary of Reading

- **point of view, setting, characters, basic plot details, repetition, contrast, literary elements, etc.**
- Abridged and in your own words
- Connect to theme whenever possible

4 Significant Quotes (narration or dialogue)

- Choose quotes that seem significant to you *OR* are connected to a theme. **(record PAGE#)**
- *Do NOT choose quotes supplied by SparkNotes, etc!*

My Questions about the Text

- Write any questions you have at this point.

My Interpretation/Analysis of Each Quote

- Explain the meaning of each quote *AND/OR* how it connects to a theme.

My Predictions about the Text

- Write what you think may happen next.

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NAME _____ NOVEL _____

Double-Entry Reading Journal (3rd quarter of novel, pages ____ - ____)

Fill in the page numbers of this section.

3 Themes:

Summary of Reading

- **point of view, setting, characters, basic plot details, repetition, contrast, literary elements, etc.**
- Abridged and in your own words
- Connect to theme whenever possible

4 Significant Quotes (narration or dialogue)

- Choose quotes that seem significant to you *OR* are connected to a theme. **(record PAGE#)**
- *Do NOT choose quotes supplied by SparkNotes, etc!*

My Questions about the Text

- Write any questions you have at this point.

My Interpretation/Analysis of Each Quote

- Explain the meaning of each quote *AND/OR* how it connects to a theme.

My Predictions about the Text

- Write what you think may happen next.

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NAME _____ NOVEL _____

Double-Entry Reading Journal (4th quarter of novel, pages _____ - _____)

Fill in the page numbers of this section.

3 Themes:

Summary of Reading

- **point of view, setting, characters, basic plot details, repetition, contrast, literary elements, etc.**
- Abridged and in your own words
- Connect to theme whenever possible

4 Significant Quotes (narration or dialogue)

- Choose quotes that seem significant to you *OR* are connected to a theme. **(record PAGE#)**
- *Do NOT choose quotes supplied by SparkNotes, etc!*

My Questions about the Text

- Write any questions you have at this point.

My Interpretation/Analysis of Each Quote

- Explain the meaning of each quote *AND/OR* how it connects to a theme.

My Predictions about the Text

- Write what you think may happen next.

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Some final notes:

The AP English Literature and Composition course demands extensive READING and WRITING. [Plan to read one novel each month of summer vacation.](#)

While I shouldn't have to state it, reading online summaries as a substitution for reading the works of literature themselves is *NOT* an option for this literature course, nor will it allow you to experience success in discussions or in writing. You will write several essays, mostly in class. But the Senior Research Paper will be written primarily outside of class. Your writing must be your own original work. There is zero tolerance for plagiarism in this composition course.

Finally, **AI-generated writing** will *NOT* be accepted. Avoid using any of those websites. Even content edited through [grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com) can be flagged as AI-generated text and will not be accepted.

You may make a copy of this reading journal for your use.

OR

You may create a handwritten reading journal that includes all of the same features. Simply draw a line down the center of your notebook paper and label both columns as you see them labeled on the template. (You can submit photos of your handwritten journal when I post the assignment in Schoology.)

- Divide the novel into 4 reading sections *before* you start reading.
- Never end a section in the middle of a chapter.
- If a section has a few more/a few less pages than the other three sections, that's ok.
- Every quotation must have a page number.

Please email me with any questions!

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Cash

scash@pgsd.org