

# AP Literature & Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2026-2027

**DUE: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Late: -15 pts/day

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Choose one of the following novels. Read it, complete the triple-entry journal and prepare for the essay over the summer

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

-OR-

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

## **\*\* Supplies Needed for Summer Assignments \*\***

1. Personal copy of one of the books. Post-it notes of various sizes and colors (if this is your annotation technique to prepare for the essay)
2. Highlighters (if this is your annotation technique to prepare for the essay)
3. Triple-entry journal template (attached and on school website)
4. Paper

## **Directions:**

1. **Read the novel**, making meaningful notes and annotations. These are two of the heaviest hitters in AP Lit. Don't skim. Trust me.
2. **Complete 3 Triple Entry Journals** using the template below. This is due on Day 1 of the school year.
3. **Head Start:** Review the attached essay prompts and either prepare physical or mental notes for your first "Cold Turkey" during the 1st week. You can do hard things!
4. **Head Start:** Read up on some of the themes in the novel (use outside sources here... please... not ChatGpt... it's fallable). You will choose one piece of literary criticism during the 1st week of school to read and respond to.

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Please note, if you are suspected and found using ChatGPT, googleAI, or another online platform to assist you, it will result in a -30 off your final exam grade, as well as a bad first impression.

## Triple Entry Journal

As you read, choose three different passages for which you will record, analyze, and respond to. Use the template below and follow the instructions carefully.

### General Instructions

- Journal entries should be typed.
- The response is based **only** on the passage chosen, not the chapter or the novel as a whole. You can always make notes, write your personal response, and then come back later to revise and edit.
- Each entry should be approximately 200 words. I am looking for quality, not quantity.
- Make sure to include the page number after the quoted text.
- Identify and analyze at least **four** different terms in your critical response column. **Highlight** each term.
- You are required to have **three** journal entries for the novel, and these entries should be one near the beginning, one in the middle, and one towards the end of the novel. (You will lose points if all your entries are from the beginning of the book.)
- Please use the following format for your entries:

**Text:** Record the text from the novel in this space. Do not use the ellipsis mark before or after the quotation, and I would prefer that you not use it in the middle of the quotation either. If it is important enough to comment on, then quote it all. Don't forget to include the page number after the quotation.

| Critical, Analytical Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Personal Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p>In this space, you are to analyze the author's use of language and his or her narrative techniques that you noted. Consider the following questions: (naturally, you wouldn't answer all of them for every entry—these are just suggestions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Discuss the language in a specific passage. How does the <b>diction</b> contribute to the overall <b>tone</b>? Consider <b>connotations</b> or comparisons such as <b>metaphors</b> or <b>similes</b> and how each affects the reader.</li><li>◆ How is the personality of a specific <b>character</b> established within a specific passage? Consider the use of dialogue, foils, and/or actions. What are the key characteristics of the speaker or narrator?</li><li>◆ <b>Setting</b> (of the passage not the book as a whole) is often a pivotal factor in the development of them. What is the effect of this setting? Consider <b>imagery</b>.</li><li>◆ Consider a notable <b>literary technique</b> in the text. Is there <b>irony</b>, <b>satire</b>, <b>symbolism</b>, <b>allusions</b>? What is the impact of the technique on the chosen passage?</li><li>◆ Are there any <b>predominant images (motifs)</b> that keep recurring throughout the work? What is the effect?</li><li>◆ Discuss how some of the characters or situations fit into the typical <b>archetypal</b> categories.</li><li>◆ Explain the effect of any unusual <b>organizational or rhetorical strategies</b> in the work—multiple <b>narrators</b>; pacing elements (<b>flashbacks</b>, <b>foreshadowing</b>, etc.); unusual punctuation or use of italics; <b>syntax</b>, such as <b>repetition</b> of words and phrases or <b>rhetorical questions</b>.</li></ul> | <p>In this space write your personal response. Tell how the quotation or events surrounding this quotation make you feel. Use the pronoun "I" here. You may also make connections to your life, to other works of literature, songs, movies, etc.</p> |

### Essay Responses

The following topics are former AP exam free-response prompts. As you read your novel, mark examples, themes, and character development that will help you write this in-class essay.

**For *Wuthering Heights*, write on the following topic:**

In many works of fiction, houses take on symbolic importance. In *Wuthering Heights*, the two houses serve as significant symbols. In a well-written essay, analyze how **one** of those houses and its symbolic significance contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

**For *Brave New World*, write on the following topic:**

In Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess "that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions." In *Brave New World*, identify a character who conforms outwardly while questioning inwardly. Then write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary.