

AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Please be sure you have joined the AP Lit Summer Reading Google Classroom. You should have been invited to it, but the code to join is **krlgqh37**.

The Big Picture

AP Literature is a course that will ask you to dig deeply into a variety of literature, including novels, plays, and poetry. Though we'll read a variety of voices in class next year, there's no way we can do full justice to every significant voice in literature in a single year. **To get us started, you get to pick the voice you study first! You'll decide the novel you want to read this summer, with some parameters.**

What should I read?

Read a novel of your choice from the list below. These texts have all appeared on the AP in the last ten years! The work of literature should be complex and appropriate in both content and difficulty for you as an independent reader. **You can read any book from the list below; however, your novel MAY NOT be a novel you've already studied at school or read before.**

As you read, we ask that you keep a handwritten journal. These captured thoughts and ideas will build stronger memories of what you read and a deeper understanding of the text. If you choose to use this work as evidence in a writing task later on, the details will be more solidified in your mind because you wrote about them.

What should I write in my journal?

Divide your novel into 5 somewhat equal parts and, for each section, address the following questions:

1. In this section, what moment or moments stood out to you? Please identify page numbers and provide a BRIEF summary of what is happening.
2. Why did this moment stand out? What did the author do that caught your attention? This might be a specific image, a comment on society, a shift in character or tone, a particular use of language, or something else. If you can't quite name it, just describe it.
3. Why does this moment matter? Think bigger picture—why is the author making this particular move at this particular moment? How does it help to shape the novel as a whole? The characters? The conflict? The themes?

Your responses to these three questions will be about a page in total (not a page each), maybe a little longer depending on your chosen moment. Please write the page numbers for each section at the top of your journal entry. **You will submit these journals at the beginning of the year. Please handwrite your responses on lined paper.**

Please research the novel you're planning to read first, so you know what kind of language and content you may encounter.

Cheering you on, and looking forward to seeing you in the fall! Feel free to reach out to any of us if you have questions or need support with the assignment.

— Ms. Blounts, Ms. Raber, and Ms. Richmond

Texts excerpted on the AP Literature Exam in the last 10 years (2016-2025)

***Texts below in bold can be checked out from the English Department if you want to borrow a copy. Reach out to us if you'd like to sign out a book for the summer.

- The Aeneid (2018)
- Afterlife (2025)
- The Age of Innocence (2024)
- **The Alchemist (2019)**
- Alias Grace (2018)
- All Over Creation (2021)
- All the Light We Cannot See (2018, 2021)
- American Spy (2025)
- An American Marriage (2024)
- Anna Karenina (2016, 2024)
- Annie John (2025)
- Another Country (2025)
- Arcadia (2023)
- **As I Lay Dying (2025)**
- Atonement (2016, 2023, 2025)
- The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (2024)
- The Awakening (2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Behold the Dreamers (2025)
- The Bell Jar (2024)
- Big Fish (2025)
- The Blind Assassin (2016)
- The Bonesetter's Daughter (2016)
- **Brave New World (2017, 2019, 2023, 2024)**
- Brideshead Revisited (2019)
- The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (2019)
- Brighton Rock (2022)
- Brooklyn (2023)
- Brown Girl, Brownstones (2021)
- The Burgess Boys (2016)
- The Buried Giant (2025)
- Candide (2019)
- **Catch-22 (2016, 2022, 2023)**
- Ceremony (2023, 2024, 2025)
- **The Color Purple (2016, 2023, 2025)**

- Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage (2024)
- Corelli's Mandolin (2024)
- The Count of Monte Cristo (2023)
- **Crime and Punishment (2016, 2018, 2025)**
- **Death in Venice (2018)**
- Disgrace (2023)
- The Dispossessed (2022)
- Dominicana (2025)
- Don Quixote (2019, 2024)
- Dracula (2017, 2018)
- The Dragon Can't Dance (2022)
- East of Eden (2022, 2025)
- Elmet (2021)
- Emma (2024)
- The English Patient (2017, 2025)
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (2016)
- **Fahrenheit 451 (2022, 2023)**
- The Farming of Bones (2025)
- George Washington Gómez (2024)
- A Gesture Life (2019, 2025)
- The God of Small Things (2021)
- The Goldfinch (2018, 2024)
- **Great Expectations (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025)**
- Grendel (2017, 2023)
- Half of a Yellow Sun (2023)
- **The Handmaid's Tale (2019, 2023, 2024)**
- The Haunting of Hill House (2021)
- **Heart of Darkness (2016, 2018)**
- **Homegoing (2018, 2021, 2025)**
- Hope Leslie (2022)
- A House for Mr. Biswas (2021, 2023, 2024)
- House Made of Dawn (2023)
- The House of Mirth (2019, 2021)
- The House of Spirits (2022, 2023)
- The House of Seven Gables (2021)
- Housekeeping (2021)
- How the García Girls Lost Their Accents (2024)
- Howards End (2021, 2024)
- The Hummingbird's Daughter (2022, 2023)
- The Hundred Secret Senses (2024)
- If Beale Street Could Talk (2022, 2024)
- The Iliad (2017, 2018)
- Indian Horse (2024)
- In the Lake of the Woods (2016)
- **In the Time of the Butterflies (2023)**
- The Inheritance of Loss (2022)
- **Interior Chinatown (2024)**
- Invisible Man (2016, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- **Jane Eyre (2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**
- Jasmine (2023)
- **The Joy Luck Club (2023, 2025)**
- Jude the Obscure (2016)
- **Kindred (2018, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025)**
- Kiss of the Spider Woman (2023)
- **The Kite Runner (2016, 2022, 2024, 2025)**
- The Known World (2023)

- The Last of the Menu Girls (2023)
- Let the Great World Spin (2023)
- Light in August (2017)
- **Like Water for Chocolate (2025)**
- Lila (2024)
- Little Fires Everywhere (2023, 2024, 2025)
- Lolita (2019)
- A Long Petal of the Sea (2024)
- Love in the Time of Cholera (2024)
- Love Medicine (2022, 2023, 2025)
- Mama Day (2018)
- **Madame Bovary (2016, 2018, 2024)**
- The Mayor of Casterbridge (2017, 2023, 2025)
- The Memory Keeper's Daughter (2016, 2025)
- Middlemarch (2017)
- Middlesex (2016, 2023)
- Midnight's Children (2018)
- The Mill on the Floss (2019, 2022)
- The Miraculous Day of Amalia Gómez (2023, 2024)
- Moby-Dick (2024)
- Moll Flanders (2023)
- **My Ántonia (2019)**
- **The Namesake (2023, 2024, 2025)**
- Native Son (2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- **Nervous Conditions (2021)**
- **Never Let Me Go (2016, 2021, 2023)**
- **The Nickel Boys (2022, 2023, 2025)**
- The Night Watchman (2024)
- **1984 (2022)**
- No Country for Old Men (2017)
- Northanger Abbey (2021)
- North and South (2024)
- Obasan (2025)
- The Odyssey (2017, 2019)
- On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous (2022, 2024, 2025)
- On Such a Full Sea (2022)
- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (2023, 2024)**
- Orlando (2017, 2023)
- Oryx and Crake (2016, 2017)
- **Parable of the Sower (2022)**
- A Passage to India (2018, 2022)
- **Passing (2021, 2023, 2024, 2025)**
- People of the Whale (2025)
- **The Picture of Dorian Gray (2016, 2018, 2025)**
- Pipeline (2024)
- The Poisonwood Bible (2023)
- The Portrait of a Lady (2016, 2018, 2019, 2021)
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (2019)
- The Power of One (2018)
- A Prayer for Owen Meany (2017)
- **Pride and Prejudice (2016, 2022, 2023, 2025)**
- The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (2022)
- The Professor's House (2021, 2024)
- Purple Hibiscus (2022, 2025)
- Quicksand (2024)
- Rebecca (2024, 2025)
- The Remains of the Day (2021, 2025)

- The Return of the Native (2018)
- Robinson Crusoe (2022)
- A Room with a View (2024)
- The Round House (2021)
- Sag Harbor (2024)
- Saturday (2021)
- **The Scarlet Letter (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**
- The Secret Garden (2021)
- The Secret History (2025)
- The Secret Life of Bees (2024)
- Sense and Sensibility (2021)
- Sing, Unburied, Sing (2021)
- Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (2016)
- **Song of Solomon (2024, 2025)**
- Sophie's Choice (2023)
- The Sound and the Fury (2025)
- Southernmost (2023)
- The Sound and the Fury (2019)
- **The Stranger (2024)**
- **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (2023)**
- Sula (2021, 2023, 2025)
- The Sun Also Rises (2019)
- Surfacing (2023)
- Swing Time (2024)
- **A Tale of Two Cities (2024, 2025)**
- The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (2023)
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles (2024)
- There, There (2023, 2024)
- A Thousand Splendid Suns (2024)
- The Turn of the Screw (2021)
- Vanity Fair (2022, 2023)
- Waiting (2024)
- Washington Black (2023, 2025)
- **When the Emperor Was Divine (2019, 2024)**
- Where the Crawdads Sing (2021)
- Whereabouts (2024)
- White Noise (2024)
- White Teeth (2021)
- White Tiger (2022)
- Wide Sargasso Sea (2021)
- **The Woman Warrior (2025)**
- The Women of Brewster Place (2016, 2022, 2025)
- **Wuthering Heights (2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**
- The Yellow Birds (2025)
- **A Yellow Raft in Blue Water (2016)**