

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Assignment, 2022-2023

AP English Literature and Composition Students,

I am looking forward to working with you this year to engage in the important, challenging, and immensely enjoyable task of studying literature. While this course will help prepare students for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam, the **overall goal of this course is helping students be effective and confident readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and viewers**. Since this is a college-level course, the workload is challenging and expectations are high; consequently, time management skills are crucial. However, students will find that their hard work, fortitude, and dedication will be beneficial, rewarding, and gratifying. Further, as this is a college-level course, some texts will cover more mature content and language, so an appropriate level of maturity is expected from students.

The summer assignment for AP Literature and Composition is **designed to prepare you for the college-level reading demands of this course**. The purpose of the AP English Literature Summer Assignment is to keep reading and writing skills sharp and help students prepare for the class in the fall and the AP English Literature Exam in the spring.

The **AP Literature test will be given in early May**; it is **expected that all students enrolled in this course will register for and take the exam**. Students who receive an acceptable score on the test **may qualify for college credit** (varies by college). For more information on the Advanced Placement program and tests, see the **College Board website** at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>.

These summer assignments will be the **first in the grade book and it is important to start the class on a positive note**. If you are unable to complete the summer assignment, this may be an indication you may not be able to commit enough time to AP English and you should consider withdrawing—preferably before the beginning of the school year; excuses, however sincere or circumstantial, will not be accepted. Finally, I do not give busy work; every assignment I give you has a purpose. I expect you to question everything; this includes readings, assignments, and my teaching. Summer assignments are worth 5% of your first semester grade. Without completing these assignments, even with perfect work and participation, the highest you will be able to receive is a 95%.

*I recommend that you begin the work detailed in this summer assignment document early in the summer so that you can enjoy it rather than rushing through it as we start school. **The most important thing is that the work you do is authentically yours**.* Our class discussions will be far more enlightening if we come together and share original ideas—even if we sometimes take risks in analysis that don't pay off—than if we regurgitate the information found in online sources. **AP students think for themselves, question what they read, and present their own ideas to their peers with confidence and conviction**.

I will be happy to answer any questions through e-mail at

hambarsumian.jennife@pusd.us.

Overview/Rationale

The first part of the summer assignment is designed to help you prepare for college and the AP Literature Exam, where skills developed by avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond intelligently to any essay question on the AP exam; therefore, summer reading is vital to your success. The summer assignment for AP Literature not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. Therefore, I'd like you to read a novel selected from the list provided. Through these texts, we are going to explore symbolism amongst other ideas. Symbolism can take many forms and should not be confused with allegory—both are discussed in chapter 12 of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, which is one of the chapters you are to read before reading your chosen novel.

The purpose of the summer reading assignment is complex:

- To help **build confidence and competence as readers** of complex text
- To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an **immediate basis for discussion of literature elements** such as theme, characterization, viewpoint, symbolism, plot structure, setting, etc.
- To set up a **basis for comparison with other works** we will read during the year
- To provide you with the **beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about** on the AP Literature exam next spring
- To **establish the mindset of a lifelong learner**
- To offer you the **experience of the intellectual depth and rigor of college level coursework**
- To **expand your repertoire of works of “recognized literary merit”** in preparation for the AP exam.

Part two of the summer assignment is to write two short college/scholarship essays. Many of you will be applying for early decision/entrance into the colleges of your choosing. As your senior English instructor, I would like for you to get a head start on that process by writing essays based on commonly used prompts from colleges across the nation. The writing of these narrative essays will help me to see where you are as a writer and how I can help you improve. In addition, we will be working with college essays when you return to in August, so having drafts allows us to go directly to the editing, revising, and polishing of the writing process.

The Assignments

- Access Canvas and Join Our Class for Access to the assignments. **You will post your summer assignments on canvas for grading.** Any general questions or concerns should be addressed in an email to me throughout the summer.
To join the canvas course go to <https://pasadena.instructure.com/enroll/ABDTFF>. Alternatively, you can sign up at <https://pasadena.instructure.com/register> and use the following join code: **ABDTFF**
- Review the homepage and syllabus.
- Complete the introduction activity: This allows me to get to know who it is I'm teaching next year.
- Read How to Read Literature Like a Professor. Read and take notes on main ideas. These notes should sum up the main point of each chapter. Foster is often repetitive in the chapters so these notes can be brief for each. My suggestion, read the chapter and then put down the main idea. Focus on the following chapters of the book: **1, 6, 8, 9, 12, 19, and 20, 24** as the next assignment relates to this.
- Choose one of the following novels to read. You will need to apply the above 5 chapters of Foster's book to the novel you have chosen and respond to questions regarding this.
- Read read read! The more you read, the better your vocabulary, the better your writing and the more likely it is that you will be reading at a freshman college level or higher by the time you graduate. Keep track of anything you read...I'd love to talk to you about it.
- In preparation for the college essays you will be writing, you will choose TWO of the prompts in our Canvas Course to which you will respond.**
 - a. The **essay length requirements for each is a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 650 words.**
 - b. You will **type these up in 12-point font, double-spaced, and submit in Canvas**

Summer Choice Novels

Novels you can find in the school library

- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.
- 1984 by George Orwell
- The Great Gatsby by F Scotts Fitzgerald
- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- A Separate Peace by John Knowles
- Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
- Chronicle of Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut
- Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
- Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
- Native Son by Richard Wright
- Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
- Yellow raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris
- The Bean Trees by Barbra Kingsolver
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Jazz by Toni Morrison
- Kindred by Octavia Butl

Novels you can read but you will have to purchase or find in PDF format

- Sing Unburied Sing by Jesamyn Ward
- Beartown by Fredrick Backman
- Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
- The Bonesetter’s Daughter by Amy Tan
- The Road by Cormack McCarthy
- Passing by Nella Larsen
- Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
- Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
- The Invisible Life of Addie Larue
- The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

- Song of Achllies by Madeline Miller
- Circe by Madeline Miller
- The Nickel Boys by Colton Whitehead
- Underground Railroad by Colton Whitehead
- The Dutch House by Ann Pratchett
- Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
- The Namesake by Jahumpa Laheri
- Interpreter of Maladies by Jahumpa Laheri
- One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghes

Or anything else that you think is AP Worthy. Reach out to me if you would like to read an alternative text. The more books we read, the better you can tackle the AP test at the end of the year.

What’s Due	Where	Suggested pacing for summer work
Join the Summer work Canvas Page	Canvas	ASAP
Complete the Introduction assignment	Canvas	Jun 6, 2022
Read and annotate How to Read Literature Like a Professor using Kami or read and note take using the physical text and a notebook	Canvas or on paper	Jun 30, 2022
Read chose novel and respond to the questions provided in Canvas	Canvas	Jul 30, 2022
Complete College essays	Canvas	Aug 8, 2022

Final due dates:

<p>Novel Questions Due no later than 08/22/2021</p>	<p>**Students entering class during the summer months will complete the summer work, as it is clearly indicated as a requirement for the course in the catalog. Modified due dates will be provided as warranted.</p>
<p>College Essays Due no later than 08/22/2021</p>	<p>Assessment: Assessment is holistic, based partially on completion, and partially on the quality of your work; Specifically, I am looking for accurate and thoughtful answers, well-developed and supported.</p>