

May 2019

Dear AP Student

Welcome to the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course. Your course work for the 2019-2020 school year begins with this letter.

This AP English course emphasizes college level reading and writing. Students will study techniques to improve writing skills and critical reading analysis.

Summer reading assignments are required nation-wide for AP English students; this reading is vital to your success in the class. This year's summer assignment involves reading three novels from the attached list and completing a project over each. These projects are due the first day of class in August. The initial writing assignments and class discussions will be based on this summer's reading.

One of the purposes of this AP course is to prepare students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May of 2020. **Taking this exam is a course requirement;** this exam serves as the second semester final exam grade for the course.

Review the following pages carefully. They detail the summer reading assignment and provide an overview of the course work for the 2019-2020 school year. ***Failure to complete summer assignments will result in removal from AP Literature. Both you and your parents must sign the colored form; please return it to me (room 133) by the end of this school year.***

I look forward to working with you during the next school year. If you or your parents have any questions this summer, feel free to call me at home (580-226-4588). Because I will be out of town occasionally during the summer, you may find it easier to reach me by e-mail (dherndon@ardmoreschools.org).

Sincerely,

Debbie Herndon
AP English Literature Instructor

Ardmore High School

AP Literature Summer Reading List

2019-2020

Students will read three novels, as listed below. Complete a notecard (explained on the back of this sheet) for each book. Notecards are due the first day class meets in August. Also, complete a project (see attached list) for ONE novel. The initial class discussions and writing assignments are based on summer reading. These assignments serve as the first grades of the first semester.

1. 1984 by George Orwell

A dystopian novel by English author George Orwell published in 1949, this novel is set in Airstrip One (formerly known as Great Britain), a province of the superstate, Oceania. The world is in a state of perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance, and public manipulation. Individualism and independent thinking is considered "thoughtcrime".

2. A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

A 2007 novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini. It is his second, following his bestselling 2003 debut, The Kite Runner. The book, which spans a period of over 50 years, from the 1960s to 2003, focuses on the tumultuous lives and relationship of Mariam and Laila, two Afghan women. Mariam, an illegitimate child, suffers from the stigma surrounding her birth and the abuse she faces throughout her marriage. Laila, born a generation later, is comparatively privileged during her youth until their lives intersect and she is also forced to accept a marriage proposal from Rasheed, Mariam's husband.

3. Choose one of the following novels:

Heinlein, Robert A. Stranger in a Strange Land—the story of Valentine Michael Smith, the man from Mars, who taught humankind grokking and water-sharing. And love.

Atwood, Margaret. Oryx and Crake-- This novel has been called a "compelling futuristic vision." Humanity here equals Snowman, and through Snowman's recollections Atwood recreates a time much like our own.

Tan, Amy. The Bonesetter's Daughter—a Chinese-American woman's relationship with the man she loves is deteriorating for reasons she doesn't understand.

Vonnegut, Kurt. Slaughterhouse Five—one GI's account of the World War II bombing of Dresden and other interesting perspectives on time—Billy Pilgrim is a time traveler; a bizarre and funny book.

AFTER READING ALL MAJOR WORKS – NOTE CARD INSTRUCTIONS

Students are responsible for completing one 5x8 note card over each novel read. Information should be concise, yet thorough. The note card will consist of the following information, in the following order (write out the labels):

Title and Author

Protagonist

Major Characters (excluding protagonist)

Point of View (be specific—1st, 3rd omniscient, or 3rd limited)

Setting

Tone (two or three adjectives)

Irony (two examples, with brief explanation)

Symbols (two repeated objects or motifs, with brief explanation)

Theme (write a specific sentence about an issue or idea)

Explanation of Title

Memorable quotation (include page number-choose one relating to theme)

Plot (use the back of the card and record the key elements. This paragraph summary should be about 175 words. Record enough specific details that reading a card will refresh your memory of a work six months later)

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Zimei Chen

Protagonist: Jay Gatsby

Major Characters: Nick Carraway, Daisy and Tom Buchanan

Point of View: First Person

Setting: 1922 Long Island

Tone: cynical, longing

Irony: (1) Gatsby is the subject of admiration among the locals. What is ironic is that while the locals debate over how he got his wealth, it never occurred to them that he earned his fortune through illegal activity. (2) It's ironic that Gatsby's love and devotion for Daisy is what got him killed.

Symbols: (1) The uncut books in Gatsby's library symbolizes fraud (Gatsby not being the sophisticated man he appears to be). (2) The green light across the water represents Gatsby's unattainable dream.

Theme: Sometimes a segment of one's past is too good to let go, despite the countless odds that prove it's not meant to be.

Explanation of Title: Gatsby isn't "great" as it is proven he is a scammer, but he is a man of "great" character.

Memorable Quote: "It was a strange coincidence," I said.

"But it wasn't a coincidence at all."

Back will be filled with plot summary.

Projects

All visual projects should be done on posterboard (approximately 24 inches x 36 inches large) and should clearly identify the author and title of your book. Visual projects will be graded according to how well they demonstrate an accurate understanding of the book, the quality of execution, and the amount of effort that they reflect. Note that many visual projects also require a short writing assignment.

1. Create a poster to advertise the book (similar to a movie poster). Your poster must include a well-developed paragraph that powerfully describes why the book is recommended. Other effective elements include meaningful quotes (be sure to identify who said them and to cite the page number for each quote), descriptions or drawings of meaningful events, and identification of the book's genre and/or themes.

2. Draw a map of where the story takes place and label all of the important places. For each place, write a short paragraph that explains its importance. You may include the paragraphs on the map or write them on a separate sheet of paper.

3. Create a poster of a major character's profile page for Facebook or another social networking site. The profile should include a picture; a list of friends; a quote; a list of likes and dislikes; a recent status update or blog entry; a favorite song, movie or TV show; and so on. Explain at least six of the items on your character's page. Examples: "I like the song "Paint it Black" because it reminds me of the time that..." or "I watch Justified because I relate to the way that..." You may include these explanations on your poster or write them on a separate sheet of paper.

To the Parents/Guardians of

Student

I would like you to read the 2019-20 Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment that I gave your teen today. Please feel free to call me at school (226-7680 Ext 133) if you have any questions.

Your signature below lets me know that you have read the Summer Reading Requirement handouts. **Please return this form to me by Thursday, May 23, 2019. If you miss this deadline, please mail this form to me in care of Ardmore High School.**

One of the purposes of this AP course is to prepare students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May 2020. This exam serves as the second semester final exam grade for the course. Students who receive a passing score on this exam may receive college credit.

I look forward to working with your teen this next school year.

Thanks,

Debbie Herndon

PARENT/GUARDIAN signature

I understand this AP course will be a rigorous class. I understand this is a college level class and a great deal of work will be required in order for me to be successful. I understand that by choosing to enroll in an AP class means that I am required to remain in the class. Students who enroll in AP classes are not allowed to drop the class after the first three weeks of class.

STUDENT signature

summer phone #

summer email

