

## AP English Literature 2018 Summer Reading Essay Topics

You are to write TWO essays on summer reading for two of the novels. Use textual evidence (QUOTATIONS) to support your thesis. **Avoid plot summary!!**

Late papers are unacceptable; you will receive a zero on the essay.

You will write an in-class (ICE) after we come back to school on the third book.

Text me if you have questions: 252-213-0024

**\*\*\*\*\*On the due date (by noon), you need to email your essay to me at**

**[ishaw@kerrvance.com](mailto:ishaw@kerrvance.com) or [lwshaw@vance.net](mailto:lwshaw@vance.net)**

**Due Dates:** 1st essay due by July13 **AND** 2nd essay due August10

### **Catch-22**

1. A critic has stated that one important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. In a well-written essay, explain the sources of the “pleasure and disquietude” experienced by the reader in Catch-22.
2. In great literature no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Explain how a scene of violence contributes to the meaning (themes) of the complete novel.

### **Nineteen Eighty-four**

1. Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in political or social attitudes or traditions. Note briefly the attitudes or traditions Orwell apparently wishes to modify. THEN, analyze the techniques Orwell uses to influence the reader’s views.
2. In Kate Chopin’s novel The Awakening (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess “that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions.” Identify a character in 1984 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 (themes) of the novel.

### **All the Pretty Horses**

1. Characters choose to respond in some significant way to justice or injustice. Write an essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.
2. A foil possesses traits that contrast with another character and often highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Write an essay analyzing how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.