

AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 2018-2019 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

*Welcome to your first assignments for AP Literature! Please read everything carefully!

Part 1. BOOKS

You are responsible for purchasing the following books for summer reading. Because the course requires you to write in your books and have them in class, you cannot simply check them out from the library or share copies. You may buy used copies. If you feel you will have difficulty affording the texts please see me before summer break. All texts must be purchased in HARD COPY form for this class, not on an e-reader, tablet, or phone!!!

1) Everyone reads the following book over summer:

- *Mudbound*, by Hillary Jordan (ISBN-13: 978-1565126770)

2) Then choose ONE book from this list to also read over summer:

- *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards (a man gives away his Down syndrome child at birth during the 1960s)
- *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy (a man and son's survival story in a post-apocalyptic setting)
- *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver (a Baptist preacher & family move to the Congo in 1959 to be missionaries)
- *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr (a blind girl's story of escaping the Nazis in WWII)

3) Purchase the following and bring with you during the first week of class:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN-13: 978-8900720167); excerpts will be read throughout the year - this book will not be read in one sitting

**Because AP Literature is considered a college course, please be aware that these novels deal with some mature content. Everything will be discussed in a mature fashion that focuses on its literary significance!

Part 2. ASSIGNMENTS

1) All written assignments for the books will happen once school starts. Your main task over the summer is to read these 2 books (*Mudbound* and your choice novel) and be able to discuss them **IN DEPTH**. That means that you mark places as you read with

Post-its and annotations – I'm not grading annotations, but as good readers, you should find some way to **engage** with the text. Don't just read the books to say you read them - look for complex issues that make for good discussion. Maybe put a Post-it next to a particularly emotional scene. Or highlight a passage that you want to talk about in class because it made you upset/angry/relieved, etc. Maybe you write a 1-2 sentence summary at the end of each chapter so that you can remember specific things for our discussions AND for your future assignments on these books. You will be writing essays about both books when school starts, so skimming or not reading will do you no good in the long run!!

Also, one of our essays on the AP exam asks you to choose a novel and write about its thematic significance. I've assigned these books over the summer on purpose because they are easier, 'on-your-own' reads, and they're pretty entertaining but also because they are great options for the Open Question essay on the exam.

2) *Mudbound* Vocabulary Quiz – You will have a quiz over the *Mudbound* vocab words at some point during the 1st week of school. Be able to use these words in the context of a sentence! You will NOT simply be matching each word to its definition!

Mudbound Vocab List

1. Alacrity (n.): cheerful readiness, promptness, or willingness
2. Bolster (v.): to strengthen or support
3. Chide (v.): to express disapproval of; scold; reproach
4. Cleave (v.): to adhere closely; stick; cling; to remain faithful
5. Congenial (adj.): agreeable, suitable, or pleasing in nature/character
6. Elusive (adj.): difficult to detect or grasp by the mind
7. Ethereal (adj.): heavenly or celestial; extremely delicate or refined
8. Folly (n.): foolish or senseless behavior
9. Garble (v.): to make false by mutilation or addition
10. Indignity (n): an injury to a person's dignity; slighting or contemptuous treatment; humiliating affront, insult, or injury
11. Ludicrous (adj.): causing laughter because of absurdity; ridiculous; laughable
12. Paltry (adj.): ridiculously or insultingly small; utterly worthless.

13. Scantily (adj.): barely sufficient or adequate

14. Stark (adj.): harsh, grim, or desolate, as a view, place, etc.

15. Unbidden (adj.): not ordered or commanded; spontaneous; not asked or summoned; uninvited

**If you have any questions, feel free to email me at mmclawhorn@madison.k12.al.us!