

AP Lit/Junior IB Summer Reading 2019-20

REQUIRED TEXT FOR AP/IB:

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster: A lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes, and contexts.

REQUIRED NOVEL FOR IB (choose one):

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood: A speculative fiction set in the future dystopia of the Republic of Gilead, a land in which the ruling military dictatorship has forbidden women from reading. Offred, the protagonist, has been assigned to the Commander as a Handmaid, one of a group of women expected to help repopulate the country in an era of declining birthrates.

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro: Set in the alternate-universe version of England, the novel concerns Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth, students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school.

CHOICE NOVEL (choose one):

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien: Tim O'Brien, the author and a Vietnam Veteran, is the protagonist in this novel. Throughout the book he reflects on his experiences in an effort to bring about a sense of redemption.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri: The novel follows the life of Gogol Ganguli from birth until middle age, chronicling his struggle to discover who he is as a second-generation immigrant.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr: A novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown: The story of the 1936 University of Washington Crew that won the Berlin Olympics.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison: Claudia MacTeer recounts events of the year that lead up to traumatic events in the life of her best friend, Pecola Breedlove.

Black Rain by Masuji Ibuse: Centered around the story of a young woman who was caught in the radioactive "black rain" that fell after the bombing of Hiroshima.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt: Theo Decker, a thirteen-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. He clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell: The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. The novel details this phenomenon.

Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie deals with India's transition from British colonialism to independence through the use of magical realism

Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor is the story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his inborn, desperate fate.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey follows Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin; Set in New Orleans and the Southern Louisiana coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South.

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Good morrow to you all! Welcome to your junior year; we look forward to traversing the globe with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time. Students enrolled in AP Lit or Junior IB will be required to read two (2) novel selections over the summer: one required and one choice. We would like to see you bring these books to class on the first day of school. Be prepared to be assessed over these books immediately upon school starting. It would benefit you to annotate in your book (if you own it) while you read. The only assignment you have this summer is to immerse yourself in the splendor of these books and enjoy some fine summer reading!