

A.P. English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Scholars (and Parents):

Welcome to A.P. English Literature and Composition! This is a College Board approved course and is considered a COLLEGE-level class. Its curriculum is designed to give scholars the same experience as a first-year college literature course. As a scholar in this class, you will be expected to read and carefully analyze college-level texts, both fiction and non-fiction. Summer reading and writing are required of all AP scholars. In addition to classroom assignments, you will be expected to read a book from a designated reading list every six weeks and take a written test on that text which will illustrate a close reading of it. This summer you should choose **one** of the following novels to read:

- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*.

“Jane Austen is one of the great masters of the English language, and PRIDE AND PREJUDICE is her great masterpiece, a sharp and witty comedy of manners played out in early 19th Century English society, a world in which men held virtually all the power and women were required to negotiate mine-fields of social status, respectability, wealth, love, and sex in order to marry both to their own liking and to the advantage of their family. And such is particularly the case of the Bennets, a family of daughters whose father's estate is entailed to a distant relative, for upon Mr. Bennett's death they will loose home, land, income, everything. But are the Bennett daughters up to playing a winning hand in this high-stakes matrimonial game without forfeiting their own personal integrity?” – Amazon.com

- Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.

“There's something for everyone in this book: Windswept castles, difficult and neurotic family members, dark secrets about tragic former lovers, good triumphing over evil, all that good juicy stuff that makes a great romantic story. What elevates *Jane Eyre* is Bronte's remarkable style and skill and her sharp and complex characterizations.” – Amazon.com

- Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*.

“Emily Brontë's only novel, *Wuthering Heights* remains one of literature's most disturbing explorations into the dark side of romantic passion. Heathcliff and Cathy believe they're destined to love each other forever, but when cruelty and snobbery separate them, their untamed emotions literally consume them. Set amid the wild and stormy Yorkshire moors, *Wuthering Heights*, an unpolished and devastating epic of childhood playmates who grow into soul mates, is widely regarded as the most original tale of thwarted desire and heartbreak in the English language.” – Amazon.com

- Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

“*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is one of the most enduring and frequently performed plays of contemporary theater and has firmly established itself in the dramatic canon. Acclaimed as a modern masterpiece, it is the fabulously inventive tale of *Hamlet* as told from the worm's-eye view of the bewildered Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two minor characters in Shakespeare's play. In Tom Stoppard's best-known work, this Shakespearean Laurel and Hardy finally get a chance to take the lead role, but do so in a world where echoes of *Waiting for Godot* resound, where reality and illusion intermix, and where fate leads our two heroes to a tragic but inevitable end.” - Amazon.com

- Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

“Tess is the daughter of the poor John Durbeyfield who learns from the village parson that his family is related to ancient nobility, being the last of the family the D'Urbervilles. In trying to make use of this connection, Joan – John's wife - suggests that Tess pursue the son of the local family of Mrs. D'Urberville. As it turns out the Mrs. D'Urberville has merely taken the name for convenience, but Tess becomes involved with her son. Alec, nonetheless, gives her employment but takes advantage of her and in unpleasant circumstances seduces her. They have a child together who dies early and cannot be baptized because he is illegitimate. The second stage of the novel concerns the family of the Reverend Mr. Clare and his son Angel. Angel and Tess marry but, when she admits the incident with Alec, their relationship is torn apart leading to Angel's departure for South America and Alec's second attempt to ensnare Tess. This leads to murder, escape and superficial impurity on the part of Tess who is finally brought to 'Justice.’” – Bibliomania.com

- Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*.

“This is a cautionary tale of a young man raised high above his station by a mysterious benefactor and has remarkable characters and a compelling story. The novel begins with young orphaned Philip Pirrip--Pip--running afoul of an escaped convict in a cemetery. This terrifying personage bullies Pip into stealing food and a file for him, threatening that if he tells a soul ‘your heart and your liver shall be tore out, roasted and ate.’ The boy does as he’s asked, but the convict is captured anyway, and transported to the penal colonies in Australia. Having started his novel in a cemetery, Dickens then ups the stakes and introduces his hero into the decaying household of Miss Havisham, a wealthy, half-mad woman who was jilted on her wedding day many years before and has never recovered. Pip is brought there to play with Miss Havisham’s ward, Estella, a little girl who delights in tormenting Pip about his rough hands and future as a blacksmith’s apprentice. It is an infection that Pip never quite recovers from; as he spends more time with Miss Havisham and the tantalizing Estella, he becomes more and more discontented with his guardian, the kindhearted blacksmith, Joe, and his childhood friend Biddy. When, after several years, Pip becomes the heir of an unknown benefactor, he leaps at the chance to leave his home and friends behind to go to London and become a gentleman. But having expectations, as Pip soon learns, is a two-edged sword, and nothing is as he thought it would be.” – Amazon.com

- Brown, Dan. *The Da Vinci Code*

“A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre museum reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ. The victim is a high-ranking agent of this ancient society who, in the moments before his death, manages to leave gruesome clues at the scene that only his granddaughter, noted cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a famed symbologist, can untangle. The duo become both suspects and detectives searching for not only Neveu’s grandfather’s murderer but also the stunning secret of the ages he was charged to protect. Mere steps ahead of the authorities and the deadly competition, the mystery leads Neveu and Langdon on a breathless flight through France, England, and history itself.” – Amazon.com

It is recommended that you purchase your own novels so that you can write in the margins and highlight meaningful quotes. However, if you would rather check a novel out from the school, copies are available for your use.

Suggested (but not required) Reading:

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there’s that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.’ - Amazon.com

The Summer Reading Assignment: You should closely read the novel and be prepared for a test on it the first week of school. In addition, I would like you to keep a reader response journal for each novel that you read. The instructions are included with this letter. We will be using Turnitin, so please do not copy and paste from websites. Academic dishonesty can result in zeros and other serious consequences.

It is imperative that you complete your summer reading assignments to be successful the first term in A.P. Literature and Composition. Because this is an academically rigorous class, you should consider this as the first test in accepting the challenge. Please do not procrastinate and think that you can read the novel the first week of the school year. These assignments require time, focus and comprehension.

If you should have any questions, you may email Mrs. Rowe:

vrowe@taylorisd.org

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rowe

Name _____

Period _____

Date _____

Reader's Notebook Instructions

- ❖ You are required to read a one novel during the summer for your AP class. You will also be reading a novel outside of class each six weeks for a total of eight books a year.
- ❖ This is a minimum; you are encouraged to read more!
- ❖ We should, of course, be reading simply for the joy of reading; however, since this is an AP class, you will also need to keep track of what you read in your Reader's Notebook for future review for the AP exam.
- ❖ Your Reader's Notebook entries are due on the dates listed below.
- ❖ Use the following guidelines:

1. **Date:** Record reading date.
2. **Citation:** Create a citation for the book you read using MLA format.
3. **Summary:** Summarize the main points of what you have read. Your summary should be detailed and **no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page in 12-font Times New Roman or Arial and double-spaced.**
4. **Literary Analysis:** For each of your summaries, discuss the book using one or more of the following prompts. Tell me what you think about the book, characters, plot, etc. **Use evidence from the book** (quotes, examples, etc.) This section should analyze the book and also be **no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page in 12-font Times New Roman or Arial and double-spaced:**

Why does the character/author . . .	The main conflict/idea in this book is. . .
Why doesn't the character/author . . .	I wonder why . . .
What surprised me most was . . .	One theme that keeps coming up is. . .
The author's writing style is . . .	I found the following quote interesting because . . .
The main character wants . . .	I _____ this book because . . .
If I were the character or author, I would . . .	

Reader's Notebook Rubric

Criteria	Not there yet . . .			Approaching Goal. . .				Goal Achieved . . .		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Citation	Citation does not follow MLA format and/or contains many errors.			Citation is in MLA format with few errors.				Citation is in MLA format with no errors.		
Summary	Summary is not $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page and/or lacks detail and understanding of the book.			Summary is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page and demonstrates understanding of the book.				Summary is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page, demonstrates a detailed understanding of the book.		
Literary Analysis	Analysis is not $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page and/or is lacking in understanding and analysis of the book and/or does not use provided prompts.			Analysis is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page and demonstrates understanding of the book.				Analysis is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page, shows understanding and analysis using one or more of the provided prompts. Evidence from the book is cited.		

*Points will be deducted if notebook is not in the correct format!

Total _____

Due Date - August 31, 2018

Grading Per Novel (Maximum):

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 10 entries- 100 | 4 entries - 40 |
| 9 entries - 90 | 3 entries - 30 |
| 8 entries - 80 | 2 entries - 20 |
| 7 entries - 70 | 1 entry - 10 |
| 6 entries - 60 | 0 entries - ZERO |
| 5 entries- 50 | |

