

# English I Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Dear Incoming English I Pre-AP Parents and Students:

Welcome to English I Pre-AP! We look forward to meeting all of you next year! In order to enrich your learning experiences, we have prepared a curriculum that is both challenging and engaging.

How is Pre-AP different from the regular English classes? Over the course of the year, we will study novels, short stories, informational text and plays with intensive reading, writing, and thinking skills. You will be expected to work at a deeper level, and in order to be able to discuss, debate, speculate, hypothesize, and make connections to other works and other disciplines during class, you will be expected to complete some reading and some prep work at home.

This summer you will read a book of your choice from the list of books included in this letter. Included in this letter are your summer reading assignment directions; please read the directions very carefully and email one of the contacts listed below if you have any questions. Please remember that we, too, are on vacation and will not be checking email on a daily basis. We will respond to any questions as soon as we are able.

You will turn in your summer reading dialectical journal on August 27, 2018. It is imperative that you allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read the novel as well as put effort into your journal. Because we will be using this novel as the basis for much of the work completed during the first six weeks of school, students are expected to bring their annotated copy of their chosen novel upon teacher request.

If possible, students should purchase their own copies of the novel. It is an advantage to be able to annotate and take notes in the margins and underline or highlight notable passages. You may buy these books cheaply online and find copies at area bookstores such as Half-Price Books. You may also check out your chosen works from the public library. However, you would not be able to take notes in the text. If these options are not viable, you may check with our librarian for available titles at the school library.

## **Campus Contacts:**

Bastrop High School *Associate Principal* : Liz Wysocki: [lwyssocki@bisdtx.org](mailto:lwyssocki@bisdtx.org)

Cedar Creek High School *English I Pre-AP Teacher*: Lori Herschap: [lherschap@bisdtx.org](mailto:lherschap@bisdtx.org)

## **District Contact:**

Bastrop ISD *ELA Content Specialist* Jennifer Greene Gast [jgreenegast@bisdtx.org](mailto:jgreenegast@bisdtx.org) PH 512-772-7172

**All summer reading assignments for Pre-AP or AP English are available on the campus and district websites.**

Choose one of the following:

### **Reading List:**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson  
*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton  
*Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck  
*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier  
*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

### **Annotations:**

While reading the selected novel during the summer, students are highly encouraged to annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins) of the text.

#### **What kinds of things could you annotate?**

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make
- sections that are confusing for you
- questions that pop into your head as you are reading
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows
- connections you make to your personal life
- symbols, themes, topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

### **Directions for Dialectical Journal:**

While reading the selected novel during the summer, students are expected to document and comment upon at least 10 quotations/excerpts from the novel in their dialectical journals to be turned in and used during discussions and assignments throughout the first weeks of class.

**Below are several suggestions to help you guide your choices:**

Elements of Fiction	Author's Craft	Figurative Language
Theme(s) Character motivation Character flaws Setting Important scenes/plot points Symbolism Motif(s)	Explodes a moment Creates a snapshot Comparison Imagery Foreshadowing Dream sequence Flashbacks	Metaphor / Simile Personification Asyndeton / Polysyndeton Allusion Hyperbole Understatement Alliteration for effect Repetition for effect

## What are you looking for?

As you read, look for several quotations/excerpts from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel that represent each of the categories. Remember, you will be expected to explain and comment on the meaning; do not simply repeat or summarize what you read. Students will likely be much more successful if they have chosen a vast array of quotations/excerpts. **Below are several ideas to help you as you look for quotations and excerpts:**

**Form, Structure, and Plot:** What is happening? Choose quotations/excerpts on the chronology of the plot: opening situation, complicating incident(s), main events in the rising action, climax, outcome (denouement). How much time is covered? If the action is framed as a flashback, explain. Choose quotations/excerpts involved in form, such as dream sequences, stream of consciousness narrative, parallel events, significant patterns of foreshadowing, anything else interesting.

**Character:** Choose quotations/excerpts about central characters: personality, function in novel, motivations, flaws.

**Setting:** Choose quotations/excerpts that show where (continent, region, state, house, room?) and when (year, month, time of day?) the novel occurs. Choose quotations/excerpts that show how the setting affects the plot or ideas of the novel. What atmosphere is created by the setting?

**Themes:** Choose quotations/excerpts that identify major themes in the novel. What moral and ethical questions are being explored in the novel, and how are they resolved? What is the author saying about life, about mankind, about nature? What's the big lesson we're to learn?

**Imagery:** Choose quotations/excerpts that appeal to one or more of the five senses. What is the effect? Look also for recurring images or motifs (light/darkness, colors, clothing, odors, sounds, whatever). How are these motifs or images used?

**Symbolism:** Choose quotations/excerpts that use an image used to suggest complex or multiple meanings. When something is used metaphorically, like using a conch shell to represent authority, it becomes a symbol. Choose quotations/excerpts in the novel that use symbols. What is the effect of the symbol? Are there patterns? Do these symbols advance one or more themes?

**Figurative Language:** Choose quotations/excerpts to identify effective examples of these devices: metaphors, similes, personification, and/or allusion. An allusion is a reference to someone or something known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science or some other branch of culture.

### **Dialectical Journal Example: Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury**

Text Evidence:	Commentary:
With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house jumped up in gorging fire". p. 7	Several things about this brief sentence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The author acknowledges that there is something significant with the number 451, reflected in the character's attire as well as the in the title. I'm curious to see where that number leads, and what its importance is. Also, while it's frightening, there a certain nonchalance about the way this character goes in burning up the house. He doesn't even seem changed. Dangerous Mood.</li> </ul>

Don't wait until the week before school begins to try and read your selected novel and complete your dialectical journal. Unexpected events may pop up that could get in the way of you completing your work on time. Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters you are going to read per week and stick to it. The same goes for finding your quotations/excerpts. Work on it while you are reading. Do not wait until you are finished with the novel.

### **Important dates:**

**DUE DATE: August 27, 2018 as a MAJOR GRADE**

**If turned in late, it is due by September 4, 2018 for a maximum grade of a 70. Final day to turn in the assignment will September 11, 2018 for a maximum grade of a 50.**

**Students who register after July 1<sup>st</sup> will have to the end of the first six weeks to turn in the assignment.**

Thank you and have a great summer!