

2019 AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Project

Dear Incoming Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Students and Parents,

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition! 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.

To maintain alignment with the rigor of a College Board course and in preparation for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam you will take in May, we will study novels, informational text, short stories, and literary nonfiction with intensive reading, writing and analysis skills. You will be expected to work at a much deeper level, and in order to be able to discuss, debate, hypothesize, and make connections to other literary works and other disciplines in class, you will be expected to complete significant reading and prep work at home.

This summer you will have the opportunity to select and read one of the novels from our district list. Included in this letter are your summer reading directions. If after reading the directions you have further questions, please feel free to call or email the campus or district contact.

You will turn in your summer reading project on August 28, 2019 to your AP English Literature and Composition teacher. Please allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read the novel and complete the assignment. This will be your first major grade of the nine weeks. In addition, you can expect an assignment or multiple assignments over your summer reading book during the first nine weeks of class as you and your teacher make connections between the literary elements and author's craft in your chosen text and the other texts being read. In order to make sure that you are well-prepared, make sure that your project has been completed on or before Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

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

AP Summer Reading Book Options

Below are the approved novel choices for AP English Literature and Composition courses. Please select one of the following texts for your summer reading project.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Grendel by John Gardner

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Ibsen's Four Major Plays by Henrik Ibsen

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

King Lear by Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

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Over your summer break, you will complete a dialectical journal based upon the novel that you have selected. Your dialectical journal should either be turned in written in ink, typed, or submitted electronically on or before **August 28, 2019**. The dialectical journal will be a **major grade** for the first six weeks. In addition, there will be **at least one other major grade** based on a writing assignment using the novel.

Annotations: While reading the selected novel, students are highly encouraged (if possible) to 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 or to the lives of others
- symbols, themes, or topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

Directions for Dialectical Journal:

While reading the novel, students are expected to create at least 10 journal entries that include quotations or excerpts from the text and commentary for each. These quotations or excerpts should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the story. The commentary for each quotation or excerpt should explain and comment on the meaning or importance and not merely paraphrase or summarize the text. Below are several ideas for a dialectical journal entry.

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. How much time is covered? If the action is framed as a flashback, explain. Choose quotations/excerpts involved in forms, such as dream sequences, stream of consciousness narrative, parallel events, significant patterns of foreshadowing, or anything else interesting, along with commentary explaining why this plot or structural device is important.

Character: Choose quotations/excerpts about central characters, such as personality, function in the novel, motivations, or 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 mood 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, or about nature? What is the big lesson that we are 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, etc.). How are these images or motifs used?

Symbolism: Choose quotations/excerpts that use an image to suggest complex or multiple meanings. When something is used metaphorically, like a conch shell to represent authority, it becomes a symbol. Choose quotations/excerpts in the novel that use these 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 Entry Example:

Text Evidence:	Commentary
<p>“The graveyard is a mass of wreckage. Coffins and corpses lie strewn about. They have been killed once again; but each of them that was flung up saved one of us.” Chapter 4, page 31</p> <p><i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> by Erich Maria Remarque</p>	<p>The horror of war is so complete, not even the dead are spared, not even the buried are safe from the bombs. The gruesomeness of the scene reinforces the inhumanity of each side towards the other. Ironically, Paul and his comrades escape the shells by jumping into the emptied graves, and, therefore, are saved by the dead.</p>
<p>Narrator: “Beneath the beards, however- and this was the true discovery K. had made- badges of various sizes and colors shimmered on the collars of their jackets. They all had badges, as far as he could see. They were all one group, the apparent parties, on the left and right, and as he suddenly turned, he saw the same badges on the collar of the examining magistrate...” (52).</p> <p><i>The Trial</i> by Franz Kafka</p>	<p>This is just like a page out of Anthony Burgess’ <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> or George Orwell’s <i>1984</i>. These men are merely players in a faction and symbolize unwarranted indifference. These men are not the judges of right from wrong but are rather the inspector and his men, the cogs in a machine, the victims of Ludovico. They manipulate Herr K. into believing he is arguing for a side as the audience changes from his supporters to his enemies.</p>

Helpful Suggestions:

- Don’t wait until the week before school starts to begin reading your novel and completing your dialectical journal. Unexpected events may occur that could make it difficult for you to complete these tasks on time.
- Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters that you are going to read per week, and stick with it.
- Annotate the text and find your quotations/excerpts as you are reading. Do not wait until you have completed the novel because it may become difficult to remember exactly why you believed that part of the text to be so important or noteworthy.