

A.P. Literature and Composition Summer Reading

In an A.P. course, there is the expectation to have a strong work ethic, to work independently as well as foster critical thinking skills through peer discussions and written analysis. The AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading encourages and incorporates these skills.

To better prepare for the AP Literature and Composition test, it is beneficial to be well versed in multiple prose fiction from different time periods and varying perspectives, and to analyze these works with different types of criticism. Summer Reading gives learners the opportunity to become better versed in literary works as well as understand how to view literary works through a critical lens. It also gives them a view into the A.P. Literature course and the higher expectations that are required of an A.P. course.

Summer Reading Assignment: Choose one of the novels from the prose reading list. After you have completely read the novel, you will be required to choose one of the writing prompts, which will be due by the second week of the A.P. Literature course. During the first two weeks, you will also be required to participate in a discussion with your peers regarding the novel you chose.

Writing Prompts:

1. In 500 words or more, explain the historical/cultural background of the novel and how it affects/influences the meaning of the work. This may take some research.
2. In 500 words or more, explain how specific motifs/symbols influence the meaning of the work as a whole.

Prose Reading List

1. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
2. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
3. *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
4. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald