

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 this A.P course.

Summer Reading Expectations: The summer reading assignment and discussion will be due at the beginning of the semester. You are expected to complete the reading as well as the writing assignment before the first unit begins in the course. If you are unaware of the summer reading and the assignments due to enrollment circumstances, you will be expected to complete the summer reading assignments and the course assignments simultaneously.

Summer Reading Assignments: 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 beginning of the course.

During the first two weeks, you will be required to participate in a discussion with your peers regarding the novel you chose. Before you respond to the discussion, review the discussion guidelines in the course. This is important as you will be graded based on the discussion guidelines and rubric.

Writing Prompts:

1. In many works of literature, characters choose to reinvent themselves for significant reasons. They may wish to separate from a previous identity, gain access to a different community, disguise themselves from hostile forces, or express a more authentic sense of self. From the following list, choose a work of fiction in which a character intentionally creates a new identity. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the character's reinvention contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.
2. Many works of literature feature a rebel character who changes or disrupts the existing state of societal, familial, or political affairs in the text. They may break social norms, challenge long-held values, subvert expectations, or participate in

other forms of resistance. The character's motivation for this rebellious behavior is often complex. From the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a character changes or disrupts the existing state of societal, familial, or political affairs. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the complex motivation of the rebel contributes to an interpretation 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
5. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
6. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston
7. *1984* by George Orwell

AP Summer Essay Rubric (100 pts)

Introductory thesis (20 points)- Students thoroughly answered the prompt in their thesis. The thesis is a literary argument and not a summary.

Body Paragraph (60 points)- Students must create at least two body paragraphs each beginning with a claim. There must be evidence from the text (this can be quotes, paraphrases, or summaries). With each piece of evidence, there must be an explanation/analysis that explains how that evidence supports your claim/thesis. There should be more explanation/analysis than evidence.

Character Analysis/Literary Devices (15 points)- Throughout the analysis, there should be descriptions and/or literary devices that describe the character.

Conclusion (5 points)- Your conclusion should be a short paragraph summarizing the main points and implications of the novel.