

AP English Literature & Composition



Summer Reading 2021

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Welcome to AP Lit! I can't wait to spend your senior year with you reading, discussing, and writing about English literature!

1. Please join the **Google Classroom (mkvovxk)**: This will give me an easy way to post any necessary updates and you a quick way to reach me with any questions.
2. Purchase paper copies of the following editions so we'll all (literally) be on the same page in the fall:
 - A. *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry*, edited by Billy Collins
 - B. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, Revised Edition
 - C. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (you may re-use your freshman year copy as long as your new annotations are distinguishable from your old ones, or you may use a new/clean copy); all editions I am aware of have the same pagination.
 - D. Your independent study book of choice (no edition requirement, but be sure you are purchasing from a reputable publisher, not an unscrupulous hack trying to make a buck on *Amazon*. The easiest way to avoid this kind of fraud (that often contains errors or is missing parts of the book!) is to buy from a brick-and-mortar bookstore such as Barnes and Noble (Cool Springs) or Parnassus (Green Hills).
3. Complete two summer tasks as described on the following pages: Due the first full week of school.
 - a. **Summer Task #1: Poetry180** reading, annotation, and reflection
 - b. **Summer Task #2: Independent study book** selection and first read

Please e-mail me this summer with any questions and watch for updates and reminders on Google Classroom. I am looking forward to our year together!

Summer Task #1:

Poetry Immersion & Reflection

1. Read 50 total poems from *Poetry180: A Turning Back to Poetry*, ed. Billy Collins
 - A. Select three different colors of adhesive taggers and create a color-coded legend in the front cover of the book.
 - B. Respond to your reading of each poem with a few brief notes on the page of the poem itself that reflect your engagement with its style and ideas: Be honest. Be thoughtful. Be concise!
 - C. Read poems #2, 9, 32, 62, 63, 69, 98, 113, 133, 165, and 180. Mark these with adhesive tagger color 1.
 - D. Select 39 additional poems (for a total of 50). Mark these with colors 2 and 3. (Select poems in any order - front-to-back, back-to-front, randomly - your choice!).
 - Color 2 indicates poems with which you had any kind of a **positive experience**. They (or any part of them) may have interested or intrigued you, spoken to you, made sense to you, and/or brought you enjoyment of any kind.
 - Color 3 indicates poems with which you had any kind of a **negative or neutral experience**. They (or any part of them) may have contained content that bothered you, been in a form you disliked, felt cryptic or pointless, confused you, or failed to connect with you in any way (either positively or negatively).

2. Choose any six of the 39 you self-selected (not the eleven I assigned) for more focused attention in an **electronic reflective journal using Google Docs**:
 - A. Three should come from the **positive experience** category above, and three should come from the **negative or neutral experience** category above.
 - B. For each poem, write a 150-250-word reflection (between $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 page typed, double spaced, 12-point font). Start each on a new page in a Google Doc and share the file with me at (nicoleg1@myplace.wcs.edu).
 - Provide the poem's title (correctly punctuated!), author, and poem (not page) number.
 - Briefly describe which category it fits into for you and explain why it fits there, using specific words and phrases from the poem to illustrate your experience with it.
 - *This is for you, not for me: Don't try to impress me with your diction, syntax, or insights.* Be honest. Be specific. Be reflective. Be yourself. Craft each answer using complete sentences and multiple paragraphs.
 - C. Write one overall reflection following your reading of all 50 poems in which you draw some general conclusions about your personal preferences in poetry:
 - What kinds of things in a poem tend to draw you in? Repel you?
 - What kinds of things in a poem make it easier for you to spend time reading and thinking about it? What kinds of things make it harder for you?
 - What do you like in poems in general? What do you not like in poems in general?
 - D. Total pages in Google Doc reflective journal = 7 (no more and no less, please)

Summer Task #2:

Independent Study Book Selection & First Read

1. Choose ONE work of long fiction from the attached list to use for your year-long independent study and literary analysis research paper. Take the time to select one you think you'd enjoy spending (a lot of) time with independently.
2. Complete your first read of this novel or play by the first full week of school.

TIPS FOR SELECTING YOUR BOOK:

- A. **SKIM THE WHOLE LIST** (attached) and mark what interests you.
- B. **TIME PERIOD & STYLE:** Read an excerpt (several pages to a chapter) of each story that interests you to get a feel for the way that it's written. You will be spending the entire year with this text, and it is important that its style is appealing to you or, at least, that you are intrigued enough to be willing to work through whatever challenges it presents in its history, context, language, and/or sentence structure. It's not necessary to begin with the first pages/chapter 1 (those tend to be more challenging to read because they are establishing the setting and characters). Don't be afraid to jump into the middle (ask Amazon.com to "surprise me" and give you a random set of pages to read, maybe).
- C. **A NOTE ON SPOILERS:** *On the plot level, sure, SPOILERS MATTER -- they irritate us, ruin suspense, make us feel we already "know" the story, etc. On the literary or analytical level, though, SPOILERS DON'T MATTER -- the plot (what happens in the story) is only one tool an author uses to communicate his/her ideas to the reader. Language, syntax, structure, parallels, characterization, conflicts, archetypes, ambiguity, etc. are all essential tools, and it's much more difficult to spoil the "how" of a story for someone. Yes, the plot of the story itself is important, but you will be considering and researching much more than whether a protagonist dies or whom she ends up marrying. We will do our best to be kind to each other and not spoil the plots of stories we discuss in this class, but you won't always find spoiler warnings in the sources you use to make your book selection, so KNOW THYSELF. . . If it's a really big deal to you not to know what happens in a story, be cautious reading anything about it (book jacket, online review, etc.) If you can roll with some pre-knowledge of what's going to happen, also be cautious: **How others summarize novels (even on rather credible sites) may not be particularly accurate or harmonize with how a story hits you personally.** It can predispose you to see characters or situations in one specific or limited way rather than enabling you to experience and judge them for yourself as having a range of possible interpretations or significances.*
- D. Finally, keep in mind Thomas C. Foster's assertion that "irony trumps everything." Several of the books on the list are satirical or use significant irony to communicate their ideas. These may read rather simply on any given page but provide interpretive challenges when you consider the characters' actions or the events of the book within the context of the whole story. Notice if a book is described as satirical or ironic and take that layer of complexity into consideration as you choose.
- E. **SUBJECT MATTER & THEMATIC ISSUES:** For some people, subject matter outweighs style as a selection consideration. You may really enjoy the witty, charming, and biting irony of Lizzie as she watches the ways other women try to find happiness and security in love in the film version of *Pride & Prejudice* starring Kiera Knightly, but **READING** Jane Austen is a very different endeavor. You may love war movies, but the war novels on the list often use considerable irony and/or satire, complicating their story lines and themes. If your interest in the subjects and ideas of the story is powerful enough, it can give you the energy to push through challenges in language and syntax. Many online platforms use tags or other ways of indicating the topics and issues a book treats. Besides Amazon and Goodreads, *LitMed* (created by the NYU school of medicine) provides helpful annotations for many books, providing category tags, summaries, and commentary (spoiler alert!): <http://medhum.med.nyu.edu/browse?category=2>.
- F. **PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** It's easy in the lazy, unscheduled days of summer break to fall victim to grandiose ideas of what you'll do differently next year (I won't procrastinate, for example. . .). **Before settling on a book, look at its style (How challenging is it for you?), time period and context (How much historical and/or cultural research will you have to do just to understand the setting, characters, and conflicts?), and length (How many pages is it?).** Then, take a good look at your class schedule and reflect on what your workload looked like this past year. Consider how much time you are willing to put into this class given your other obligations (clubs, teams, jobs, COLLEGE APPLICATIONS, etc.). I am all for challenging yourself, but keep in mind that, in addition to reading this novel or play initially during the summer, you'll have to read it **AT LEAST** once more (twice is better!) during the first semester as you analyze it for your research project. **This is a significant portion of the AP English Literature curriculum that you have complete control over!** Don't try to impress me or anyone else with your choice. Don't select a book just because a friend is. **All of them are worthy of in-depth study.** Spend the time to make a selection that will be good to you :).
- G. **EXCLUSIONS:** Select a novel or play from the list that you **HAVE NOT READ OR STUDIED** for another class. The purpose of this project is to expose you to new literature and to help you hone your abilities to analyze complex literature independently in preparation for FRQ #2 & #3 on the AP Lit. exam.

Selections from the College Board AP Literature FRQ #3 ("Open Question") Book* List, 1971-2018

CHOOSE ONE from this list as your independent study (research paper) text for the year.

Choose a text you HAVE NOT READ OR STUDIED for another class.

**Though you can always choose any novel or play of "recognized literary merit" to write about in answer to FRQ #3 on the AP Literature exam, the College Board provides a list of texts that they had in mind as they wrote the prompt. The date(s) after the titles reflect the exam year(s) in which each text has been suggested; therefore, more dates means they have had a particular book in mind more often when they've written FRQ 3.*

- A Doll's House, 1971, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1995, 2002 (B), 2005, 2009, 2009 (B), 2016
- A Farewell to Arms, 1991, 1999, 2004 (B), 2009
- A Gathering of Old Men, 2000, 2011
- A Midsummer's Night's Dream, 1991, 2006, 2012
- A Passage to India, 1971, 1977, 1978, 1988, 1991, 1992, 2007, 2009 (B), 2012, 2018
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1988, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2005 (B), 2008 (B), 2009, 2010, 2010 (B), 2013
- A Prayer for Owen Meany, 2009, 2014, 2017
- A Raisin in the Sun, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2007 (B), 2009, 2009 (B), 2012, 2014, 2018
- A Streetcar Named Desire, 1991, 1992, 2001, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 (B), 2014
- A Tale of Two Cities, 1982, 1991, 2004 (B), 2008, 2014
- A Thousand Acres, 2006, 2011, 2014
- Absalom, Absalom!, 1976, 2000, 2007, 2010 (B), 2012
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2005, 2005 (B), 2006, 2006 (B), 2007 (B), 2008, 2008 (B), 2013
- Age of Innocence, 1997, 2002, 2003 (B), 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014
- Alias Grace, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2018
- All the King's Men, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2004 (B), 2007, 2008, 2009 (B), 2011
- All My Sons, 1985, 1990
- All the Pretty Horses, 1996, 2006, 2006 (B), 2007 (B), 2008, 2010 (B), 2011, 2013
- An Enemy of the People, 1976, 1980, 1987, 1999, 2001, 2007
- Anna Karenina, 1980, 1991, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004 (B), 2008, 2009 (B), 2016
- Antigone, 1979, 1980, 1990, 1994, 1999, 2003, 2005 (B), 2009 (B), 2011, 2014
- As I Lay Dying, 1978, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2001, 2004 (B), 2006, 2006 (B), 2007 (B), 2009
- As You Like It, 1992, 2005, 2010, 2016
- Atonement, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2016
- Awakening, The, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004 (B), 2007, 2007 (B), 2009, 2009 (B), 2014
- Beloved, 1990, 1999, 2001, 2002 (B), 2003, 2005 (B), 2007, 2009, 2010 (B), 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Billy Budd, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1999, 2002, 2004 (B), 2005, 2007 (B), 2008, 2015
- Black Boy, 2006, 2008 (B), 2013, 2015
- Bleak House, 1994, 2000, 2004 (B), 2005, 2009, 2010 (B)
- Bless Me, Ultima, 1996, 1997, 2004 (B), 2006, 2008 (B)
- Blind Assassin, The, 2007, 2011, 2016
- Bluest Eye, The, 1995, 2008 (B), 2009 (B)
- Bonesetter's Daughter, The, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2016
- Brave New World, 1989, 2005, 2009 (B), 2010, 2017
- Catch-22, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1994, 2001, 2003 (B), 2004 (B), 2005, 2007 (B), 2008, 2015, 2016
- Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, 2000, 2002 (B)
- Cat's Eye, 1994, 2008 (B), 2009, 2013, 2015
- Ceremony, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 (B), 2005 (B), 2006, 2007 (B), 2009 (B), 2012
- Cherry Orchard, The, 1971, 1977, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 (B)
- Chosen, The, 2008 (B), 2013
- Cold Mountain, 2006 (B), 2008
- Color Purple, The, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016
- Crime and Punishment, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1988, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2002 (B), 2003, 2004, 2004 (B), 2005 (B), 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2018
- Crucible, The, 1971, 1983, 1987, 2004 (B), 2005, 2009, 2009 (B), 2014, 2015, 2016
- Cry, the Beloved Country, 1985, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2007, 2009 (B)
- Death of a Salesman, 1986, 1988, 1994, 2002 (B), 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2007 (B), 2012, 2014
- Emma, 1996, 2008
- Equus, 1992, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2009, 2009 (B)
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, 2016
- Fences, 2002, 2003, 2005 (B), 2009, 2010 (B)
- For Whom the Bell Tolls, 2003, 2006
- Glass Menagerie, The, 1971, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2010 (B), 2012
- Go Tell it on the Mountain, 1988, 1990, 2005, 2009 (B)
- God of Small Things, The, 2010 (B), 2011, 2013
- Going After Cacciato, 2001, 2006 (B), 2010 (B)
- Grapes of Wrath, 1981, 1985, 1987, 1995, 2003 (B), 2006, 2009, 2009 (B), 2010 (B), 2011, 2012, 2013
- Great Expectations, 1979, 1980, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2002 (B), 2003 (B), 2004, 2005 (B), 2007, 2007 (B), 2008 (B), 2010 (B), 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018
- Great Gatsby, The, 1982, 1983, 1988, 1991, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2002 (B), 2004, 2004 (B), 2005 (B), 2007, 2007 (B), 2010 (B), 2016
- Handmaid's Tale, The, 2003 (B), 2009 (B)
- Heart of Darkness, 1971, 1976, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2002 (B), 2003 (B), 2004, 2004 (B), 2006 (B), 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018
- Homegoing, 2018
- In the Lake of the Woods, 2000, 2016

Invisible Man, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2003 (B), 2004, 2005, 2007 (B), 2008, 2009, 2009 (B), 2010, 2010 (B), 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
 Jane Eyre, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002 (B), 2005 (B), 2007, 2007 (B), 2008 (B), 2010, 2010 (B), 2013, 2016, 2017
 Joy Luck Club, The, 1997, 2003 (B), 2013
 Jude the Obscure, 1971, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1987, 1991, 1995, 2004 (B), 2009, 2009 (B), 2010, 2016
 Kite Runner, The, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2015, 2016
 Light in August, 1971, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1995, 1999, 2002 (B), 2003, 2006 (B), 2011, 2017
 Little Foxes, The, 1985, 1990, 2010, 2010 (B)
 Lord of the Flies, 1985, 1992, 2008 (B), 2015
 Madam Bovary, 1980, 1985, 1995, 2004 (B), 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2018
 Mansfield Park, 1991, 2003 (B), 2006, 2015
 Master Harold and the Boys, 2003 (B), 2008 (B), 2009 (B)
 Mayor of Casterbridge, The, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2002 (B), 2007 (B), 2010, 2017
 Medea, 1982, 1992, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2011, 2015
 Memory Keeper's Daughter, The, 2009, 2014, 2016
 Metamorphosis, 1978, 1989, 2017, 2018
 Middlemarch, 1995, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2017
 Moby Dick, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1989, 1994, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2004 (B), 2005 (B), 2006 (B), 2007, 2009
 Murder in the Cathedral, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1995, 2007 (B), 2011
 My Antonia, 2003 (B), 2008 (B), 2010, 2012
 Namesake, The, 2009, 2010 (B), 2013
 Native Son, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1995, 2001, 2004 (B), 2009 (B), 2011, 2012
 Native Speaker, 1999, 2003 (B), 2005 (B), 2007, 2008 (B)
 Never Let Me Go, 2009 (B), 2010 (B), 2016
 Nineteen Eighty-Four, 1987, 1994, 2005, 2009, 2009 (B)
 No Country for Old Men, 2011, 2017
 No Exit, 1986, 2012
 Obasan, 1994, 1995, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2006 (B), 2007, 2010
 Oedipus Rex, 1977, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2011, 2017
 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 2001, 2012, 2015
 One Hundred Years of Solitude, 1989, 2004 (B), 2012
 Oryx and Crake, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017
 Our Town, 1986, 1997, 2009
 Persuasion, 1990, 2005, 2007
 Piano Lesson, The, 1996, 1999, 2002 (B), 2007, 2008, 2010 (B), 2012
 Picture of Dorian Gray, The, 2002, 2016, 2018
 Plague, The, 2002, 2009, 2012
 Poisonwood Bible, The, 2010, 2010 (B), 2011, 2012, 2014
 Portrait of a Lady, The, 1992, 1996, 2003 (B), 2005, 2007 (B), 2014, 2016, 2018
 Pride and Prejudice, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1997, 2008, 2012, 2016
 Pygmalion, 1992, 2003 (B), 2005 (B), 2008
 Red Badge of Courage, The, 2008 (B), 2015
 Remains of the Day, The, 2000, 2003 (B)
 Reservation Blues, 2008, 2009, 2009 (B)
 Return of the Native, The, 2007 (B), 2018
 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, 1981, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2006 (B), 2010, 2011
 Scarlet Letter, The, 1971, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1991, 1999, 2002, 2002 (B), 2004, 2004 (B), 2005, 2005 (B), 2006, 2014, 2015
 Sister Carrie, 1987, 2002, 2004, 2009 (B), 2010, 2015
 Snow Falling on Cedars, 2000, 2010, 2012
 Song of Solomon, 1981, 1988, 1996, 2000, 2002 (B), 2004 (B), 2005 (B), 2006 (B), 2007 (B), 2010 (B), 2013
 Sound and the Fury, The, 1986. 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007 (B), 2008, 2013
 Stranger, The, 1979, 1982, 1986, 2004 (B), 2011
 Sula, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2007 (B), 2008, 2008 (B), 2010 (B), 2012
 Sun Also Rises, The, 1985, 1991, 1995, 2004, 2005, 2012
 Tess of the D'Urbervilles, 1982, 1991, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2015
 Their Eyes were Watching God, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1996, 2004, 2004 (B), 2005, 2005 (B), 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 (B), 2013, 2014, 2017
 Things Fall Apart, 1991, 1997, 2003, 2003 (B), 2004, 2009, 2009 (B), 2010, 2010 (B), 2011, 2014, 2018
 To Kill a Mockingbird, 2008 (B), 2009 (B), 2011, 2013, 2015
 To the Lighthouse, 1977, 1986, 1988, 2008 (B), 2018
 Tom Jones, 1990, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2008 (B), 2017
 Trial, The, 1989, 2000, 2011
 Turn of the Screw, The, 1992, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008 (B)
 Waiting for Godot, 1977, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1994, 2001, 2009, 2012, 2017
 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, 1988, 1994, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2007 (B), 2015, 2016
 Wide Sargasso Sea, 1989, 1992, 2005 (B), 2007 (B), 2008 (B)
 Wise Blood, 1982, 1989, 1995, 2009, 2010 (B)
 Women of Brewster Place, The, 2009, 2009 (B), 2010, 2010 (B), 2012, 2014, 2016
 Wuthering Heights, 1971, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2007 (B), 2008, 2008 (B), 2010, 2010 (B), 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017

