

English IV Literature and Composition Advanced Placement

Summer Reading Assignment

Ms. Ducote: 2018-2019

Welcome to English IV AP! The objectives of this class are to prepare you to pass the AP exam, to prepare you for college-level English courses, and to help you develop an appreciation for diverse literature. This summer assignment addresses all three objectives.

You will begin by choosing one of the texts from the list below. You must read your chosen text carefully and analytically. I would recommend buying your own copy so you can annotate as you read, but you can also just use sticky notes for that purpose. All books are available in the Zachary High library and through the public library if you do not want to buy your own copy.

Please understand that I have read all of the books on the list (multiple times), so I will be able to tell if you do anything besides carefully read the entire book you choose. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email me at any time: kaitlin.ducote@zacharyschools.org.

All components of this assignment are due on the first day of school: Thursday, August 9th

Assignments (read all instructions CAREFULLY and THOROUGHLY):

- 1. Choose a book from the list on page 2 and acquire a copy.**
- 2. Read the book carefully and analytically.**
 - You must annotate as you read: write/highlight in the book if you have your own copy or use sticky notes in a borrowed copy.
 - Your annotations are a graded element of this assignment.
- 3. Complete a Major Works Data Packet (pages 3-6) as you read.**
 - We will complete one of these packets for every major work we read this year.
 - You must do a little research on the author, historical period/context of the novel, and the genre of the novel to complete this.
 - Use citations when necessary.
- 4. Choose one of the prompts on pages 7-8, and write an essay.**
 - Use the labeled and lined paper on pages 9-12 to WRITE the essay—no typing. Aim for two or three full pages of writing.
 - These prompts are all from the Open Question (Essay 3) on past AP exams.
 - You DO NOT have to use textual evidence from the book. You will not have the book available for this purpose on the AP exam. Instead, use **specific details** from the novel that are clearly explained and connected to the prompt in your analysis.
 - Avoid plot summary!
 - Write a very brief (three or four sentences) introduction and get the summary out of your system there.
 - Use the wording of the prompt as much as you can throughout the essay to show that you understand the task and are addressing it. It may seem/feel repetitive but it's not.
 - On the AP exam, you will only have 40 minutes to write this essay!
 - Let's try it out: I want you to TIME YOURSELF and try your best to complete this essay in that time limit.
 - Once you hit the 40-minute mark, I want you to MARK IT on the page. If you want to continue/finish the essay, then go for it; however, I need to see where you were 40 minutes in, so DON'T FORGET TO MARK IT!

**English IV Literature and Composition Advanced Placement
Summer Reading Assignment
Novel/Play Choices**

- Choose one of the following novels or plays to read for your summer assignment.
- Please do not assume that a shorter work or a play is “easier” than a longer work. These were all chosen because they are frequently cited or used on the AP exam.
- Please choose a work that you have NOT read before; if you do choose a work you have read, please understand that you must re-read it in order to fully complete this assignment.
- ***It is recommended but not required that you purchase your own copy of the work you choose to read.**
 - Most of these titles are available through the Zachary High School Library or the Zachary Branch Public Library.
 - Some are also available online for free due to copyright expiration; check Project Gutenberg or just google the title if you are interested in reading it online.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Antigone by Sophocles
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Medea by Euripides
Othello by Shakespeare
King Lear by Shakespeare
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

E4AP: Major Works Data Packet

| | |
|--|---|
| Title: | Biographical information about the author that may be relevant to the text: |
| Author: | |
| Date of Publication: | |
| Genre: | |
| Historical information about the period of publication that may be relevant to text: | |
| | Characteristics of the genre: |
| | |
| Plot Summary: Do not cut/paste from a website, which is a form of plagiarism. | |
| | |

Major Works Data Packet

Major Characters

| Name | Adjectives | Relationships | Significance to Story |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |

Major Works Data Packet

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Setting(s)</p> | <p>Description of and Significance of Opening Scene</p> |
| <p>Symbols and Motifs</p> | <p>Description of and Significance of Closing Scene</p> |
| <p>Possible Themes with Brief Explanation</p> | |

**English IV Literature and Composition Advanced Placement
Summer Reading Assignment
Open Question Essay Prompts**

- Choose one of the following prompts—none are inherently more difficult or easier than the others.
 - These are all prompts used for the Open Question (Essay 3) of past AP exams; the year of the exam is marked in parentheses and italics at the end of the prompt.
 - Use the prompt you choose to write an essay; on the AP exam, you would have 40 minutes to read the prompt, analyze the prompt, and write the full essay.
 - Write the number of the prompt you choose on the top label of the lined paper on pages 5-8.
1. The conflict created when the will of an individual opposes the will of the majority is the recurring theme of many novels, plays, and essays. Select the work of an essayist who is in opposition to his or her society; or from a work of recognized literary merit, select a fictional character who is in opposition to his or her society. In a critical essay, analyze the conflict and discuss the moral and ethical implications for both the individual and the society. Do not summarize the plot or action of the work you choose. *(from the 1976 AP Exam)*
 2. Choose a complex and important character in a novel or a play of recognized literary merit who might on the basis of the character's actions alone be considered evil or immoral. In a well-organized essay, explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might. Avoid plot summary. *(from the 1979 AP Exam)*
 3. A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between a passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and its significance to the work. *(from the 1980 AP Exam)*
 4. The meaning of some literary works is often enhanced by sustained allusion to myths, the Bible, or other works of literature. Select a literary work that makes use of such a sustained reference. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain the allusion that predominates in the work and analyze how it enhances the work's meaning. *(from the 1981 AP Exam)*
 5. In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Choose a work of literary merit that confronts the reader or audience with a scene or scenes of violence. In a well-organized essay, explain how the scene or scenes contribute to the meaning of the complete work. Avoid plot summary. *(from the 1982 AP Exam)*
 6. Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary. *(from the 1987 AP Exam)*

7. Choose a novel or play that depicts a conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary. *(from the 1990 AP Exam)*
8. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a novel or a play in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values. *(from the 1995 AP Exam)*
9. The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, "No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man's mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time." From a novel or play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict with one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may use one of the novels or plays listed below or another novel or work of similar literary quality. *(from the 1999 AP Exam)*
10. Often in literature, a character's success in achieving goals depends on keeping a secret and divulging it only at the right moment, if at all. Choose a novel or play of literary merit that requires a character to keep a secret. In a well-organized essay, briefly explain the necessity for secrecy and how the character's choice to reveal or keep the secret affects the plot and contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. You may select a work from the list below, or you may choose another work of recognized literary merit suitable to the topic. Do NOT write about a short story, poem, or film. *(from the 2002 AP Exam)*
11. Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a novel or play that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. *(from the 2007 AP Exam)*
12. Many works of literature contain a character who intentionally deceives others. The character's dishonesty may be intended wither to help or to hurt. Such a character, for example, may choose to mislead others for personal safety, to spare someone's feelings, or to carry out a crime. Choose a novel or play in which a character deceives others. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character's deception and discuss how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. *(from the 2016 AP Exam)*
13. Select a novel, play, or epic poem that features a character whose origins are unusual or mysterious. Then write an essay in which you analyze how these origins shape the character and that character's relationships, and how the origins contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole. *(from the 2017 AP Exam)*

