

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Read all instructions carefully as you complete the assignments.

Happy reading! The purpose of the summer reading/writing assignment is to help you improve your vocabulary, reading, and writing skills. Also, you will be better prepared for the rigorous demand of Advanced Placement courses. In addition, students who read frequently often do better on those highly relevant tests like the A.C.T. and the S.A.T. In conjunction with the reading, you will also be asked to do a large quantity of writing in the AP Literature course. The two go hand in hand.

HERE ARE BASICS:

Read two books as follows:

- Read a novel from the 19th century (or early 20th). You must choose from the list of 7 titles provided below. Half of the AP exam has pre-1900 readings on it and students nationwide generally struggle more with this.
- Complete a corresponding written assignment.

- Choose another novel from an extensive list that College Board has selected on previous AP Literature tests.
- Complete a corresponding written assignment.

- **ALL work must be original. You may not work with anyone else on this and all writing must be your own original ideas.**

Part A-Pre-1900 Literature/Early 20th

1. Choose one of the books from the list below that you have not already read and/or studied in class. You will be discussing your chosen book with the rest of the class when we begin school. Please read closely and annotate important sections as you feel necessary. You will have a written assessment over your book during the first week of school.

Crime and Punishment

Pride and Prejudice

Oliver Twist

Frankenstein

Dracula

Jane Eyre

Great Expectations

2. Written Assignment - Stylistic Prose Techniques: **100 points**

- As you read, notice the stylistic prose techniques that the author uses to communicate more effectively and powerfully.
- Examples of stylistic prose techniques are -
point of view, tone, diction, syntax, narrative pace, humor, satire, figurative language imagery, irony, selection of detail, symbol, and many more.
- Select at least ten (10) **different** examples of stylistic prose techniques from your novel. Define the term in your own words, cite the example from the text (quote the passage and give the page number), and provide a brief analysis of how the author uses the technique effectively. (Note: You might set up a chart Google Docs for clarity). Please type this and make sure it is not longer than two pages.

Part B - Books of Literary Merit

1. Choose a novel/play of recognized literary merit (see following reading list). Choose your book carefully. You may not use a novel/play you have studied in previous English classes, nor may you use the novels/plays you chose for any other part of the summer assignment.

2. Written Assignment - Reader Response Journals **100 points**

This **must be hand-written in ink on notebook paper**

- Identify the work. Include the title, publisher, and copyright date for your edition of the work.
- A minimum of six responses is required.
- As you read the selected work, record your thoughts and discoveries. Each response must be at **least a full page in length. (1 page ≈ 1 front of a page.)**
- Ah, you may ask, "But what if I don't have enough to say to fill up a page?" Then I will respond, "You are not reading and thinking enough about your topic. **Do NOT give me a plot summary of the book.** A plot summary will only earn you a maximum of 60 of 100 possible points. Identify literary concerns that seem particularly important to the specific work.
- **Examples** might include autobiographical elements, philosophy of life, plot structure, use of imagery and other symbols, or thematic implications.

Suggested Reading List For Part B of Summer Assignment

The reading list is arranged by major themes. (In addition to the books listed below, you may also choose a book from the 1st page of this assignment as long as you haven't already read it or chosen it for a different part of the assignment.)

Search for Identity

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*, *Juneteenth*

Sherman Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*

Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune*

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Russell Banks, *Rule of the Bone*

Willa Cather, *My Antonia*

Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*

Michael Dorris, *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*

William Faulkner, *Light in August*

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*

Henry James, *Portrait of a Lady*

Giah Jen, *Typical American*

Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage*

James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*

Joy Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*

Chang-rae Lee, *Native Speaker*

Toni Morrison, *Sula*

Gloria Naylor, *The Women of Brewster Place*

Joyce Carol Oates, *Wonderland; We Were the Mulvaney's*

Kenzaburo Oe, *The Silent Cry*

Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*

Edmund Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Frances Sherwood, *Vindication*

Agnes Smedley, *Daughter of Earth*

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Henri-Beyle Stendahl, *The Red and the Black*

Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*; *Bonesetter's Daughter*
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*

Narrative Traditions; Illusion and Reality

George Orwell, *1984*
William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow*
Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*
Louis DeBernieres, *Corelli's Mandolin*
Don DeLillo, *Libra*
DL Doctorow, *Ragtime*
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*;
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
Myla Goldberg, *Bee Season*
Jane Hamilton, *A Map of the World*, *The Book of Ruth*
Ha Jin, *Waiting*
Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*
Bobbie Ann Mason, *In Country*
Joyce Carol Oates, *Expensive People*
Tim O'Brien, *Going After Cacciato*; *In the Lake of the Woods*
Iain Pears, *An Instance of the Fingerpost*
Richard Powers, *The Gold Bug Variations*
Mark Salzman, *Lying Awake*
Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia*
D.M. Thomas, *The White Hotel*
Jean Toomer, *Cane*
John Updike, *Gertrude and Claudius*

Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

The Nature of Good and Evil

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Robert Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*
Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

Gustav Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*

E.M. Forester, *A Passage to India*

Graham Greene, *The Heart of the Matter*

Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*
Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
Henry James, *The Aspen Papers*
Archibald Macleish, *JB*
Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*
Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*, *Billy Budd*
Brian Moore, *No Other Life*
Alan Paton, *Cry the Beloved Country*
Mary Dora Russell, *The Sparrow; The Children of God*
Bernhardt Schlink, *The Reader*
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Tom Wolfe, *The Bonfire of the Vanities; A Man in Full*

Richard Yates, *Revolutionary Road*

Finding Purpose

Joseph Heller, *Catch 22*
Albert Camus, *The Plague*
Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing*
James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Russell Banks, *Cloudsplitter*
Italo Calvino, *The Baron in the Trees*
Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*
Annie Dillard, *The Living*
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*
David James Duncan, *The Brothers K*
Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory*
Kent Haruf, *Plainsong*
John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*
Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*; *Prodigal Summer*
Norman Maclean, *A River Runs through It*

W. Somerset Maugham, *The Razor's Edge*
Gloria Naylor, *Bailey's Café*, *The Women of Brewster Place*
Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*
Reynolds Price, *Kate Vaiden*; *The Promise of Rest*
Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead*
Marilynne Robinson, *Housekeeping*
Jose Saramago, *Blindness*
Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
Evelyn Waugh, *The Loved One*

If you have any questions about the summer assignment, e-mail mswinney@wayne.local.net

I will answer your questions ASAP. Enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing you in August.

Mrs. Swinney