

## AP Literature Summer Reading

### I. Join Google Classroom and Turnitin

Class announcements, notes, and assignments will be posted on Google Classroom this year so use the following codes to join

Period 4-AP Literature

Code: afcvzlo

Period 7-AP Literature

Code: 3ltlyxz

The majority of writing assignments will be posted on Turnitin so join using the following information

Period 4-AP Literature

Class ID: 29666380

Enrollment Key: English1

Period 7-AP Literature

Class ID: 29666396

Enrollment Key: English1

### II. College Essay

Complete one essay on Commonapp.org or from another college application. This will be a first draft and is due on Turnitin by Sunday, August 1.

### III. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster

This is a book that will serve as a foundation for our literary analysis throughout the year, so I suggest buying your own copy and annotating as you read over the summer. Select any 10 chapters and write a brief response to each of the following questions:

*Why does this chapter stand out to you?*

*What have you read that you could relate this to and why?.*

This is due on Turnitin by Sunday, August 15.

### IV. Novel Choice and Essay Responses

Choose one of the novels below and read it as well as *The Odyssey*. Consider purchasing and annotating a copy as it will help the assignment. Once you've finished the novels, choose one of the following prompts per novel and write a 2-4 page essay on it. These two papers are due on Turnitin by Sunday, August 22.

*All the Light We Cannot See* - Anthony Doerr

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*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* - Junot Díaz

*The Kite Runner* - Khaled Hosseini

*The Namesake* - Jhumpa Lahiri

*The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver

*The Water Dancer* - Ta-Nehisi Coates

*When the Emperor was Divine* - Julie Otsuka

### Prompts:

1. Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often also a burden or handicap. Select a character from your summer reading novel who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem. They write a well-developed essay analyzing the complex nature of the gift and how the gift contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. (2018)
2. In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Reflect on your summer reading novel and determine if acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analysing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or the victim. (2015)
3. It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character from your summer reading novel that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. (2014)
4. "And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and

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characters as much as fate, destiny, or any supernatural agency.” - Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

Consider your summer reading novel and whether cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. (2012)

5. In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.” Choose a character from your summer reading novel who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole. (2011)

### V. Reread and Journal

Choose and email me the title of a fictional novel or play you’ve read in class. Reread the work and keep a double-entry journal with 20-40 quotes. This journal is due on Turnitin by Sunday, August 29. Suggestions are below

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*The Crucible* or *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Any play by Shakespeare