

**Summer Reading Assignment  
2018-2019  
AP Literature and Composition**

***Instructors:***

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This assignment is designed to help you prepare for college and the AP exam, where skills developed by avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond intelligently to the open essay question on the AP exam, and as a student on accelerated block with minimal time in English, summer reading becomes vital to your success. In this summer assignment are your two reading assignments and due dates. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE READING ASSIGNMENT BY THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.** Remember to pace yourself accordingly during the summer break. **Do NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE YOUR READING AND/OR ASSIGNMENTS.** I will recognize last-minute work when I see it.

The summer assignment for AP English not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. **(AP English is for students who love to read and explore literature. If reading is not something you enjoy, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE.)**

Other reasons for the summer assignment include: time constraints during the school year—there just isn't enough time to read all the material necessary to adequately prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam, as well as the need for continuous brain exercise during the summer months. *NO ONE* can afford the cost of having their brain in “stand-by” mode for the eight weeks of summer. One of the main differences between an AP English class and a regular English class is the amount of effort students are required to put into their work. You will find out very early that an AP student is expected to always put all of their thinking and effort into assignments and readings. This kind of effort is expected on every aspect of the summer assignment.

**Be sure to join the Google Classroom for AP Literature Summer Reading 2018: Class Code - 5lsovjx** You will be able to ask questions, download copies, and stay on top of reading by being part of the Google Classroom.

**ASSIGNMENT 1:** Choose one of the following books to read and annotate. *When annotating, focus on character, literary devices (symbolism, figurative language, tone, POV, characterization, etc.) Make comments, prediction, ask questions. Interact with the text. React to the text.*

**Content Disclaimer:** AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level class. Necessarily, because advanced literature courses deal with all facets of living, there will be talk of life, of death, and of the various human desires. Mature, college-level discussion of topics concerning identity, gender, race, society and class will ensue. Students will fine tune their skills of listening respectfully to each other while participating appropriately in class discussions. If you feel delicate about such things or are easily

**offended, let's talk together about the challenges you might face. You can expect mature discussions over a wide variety of subjects and topics. Participation in class discussion is a major part of the course, so bring your ideas and opinions.**

*Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*- Mary Shelley

Desperate in his search of the secret of life, young Dr Victor Frankenstein attempts to construct and then bring to life a previously inanimate creature. He succeeds, yet immediately finds himself horrified and repulsed by the fruit of his long-lasting labors and, as a result, abandons the creature without a word. This action begins a series of tragic events in the life of the scientist, as the enraged monster begins his quest to fill every minute of Dr. Frankenstein's life with terror, dread and misery. First published in 1818, this novel continues to captivate the audience today. Frankenstein is not merely a horror story, but, rather, a tale that would make its readers ponder on the pursuit of knowledge and explore what monstrosity truly means.

*The Catcher in the Rye* - J.D. Salinger

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.

*The Good Earth* - Pearl S. Buck

*The Good Earth* is Buck's classic story of Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant farmer, and his wife, O-lan, a former slave. With luck and hard work, the couple's fortunes improve over the years: They are blessed with sons, and save steadily until one day they can afford to buy property in the House of Wang—the very house in which O-lan used to work. But success brings with it a new set of problems. Wang soon finds himself the target of jealousy, and as good harvests come and go, so does the social order. Will Wang's family cherish the estate after he's gone? And can his material success, the bedrock of his life, guarantee anything about his soul?

*Things Fall Apart* - Chinua Achebe

*Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.

*Blood Meridian* - Cormac McCarthy

Cormac McCarthy's masterwork, *Blood Meridian*, chronicles the brutal world of the Texas-Mexico borderlands in the mid-nineteenth century. Its wounded hero, the teenage Kid, must confront the extraordinary violence of the Glanton gang, a murderous cadre on an official mission to scalp Indians and sell those scalps. Loosely based

on fact, the novel represents a genius vision of the historical West, one so fiercely realized that since its initial publication in 1985 the canon of American literature has welcomed *Blood Meridian* to its shelf.

### *The Awakening* - Kate Chopin

On vacation in Grand Isle, Louisiana, a married woman falls in love with a charming, attentive young man. The relationship spurs Edna Pontellier to explore her longing for independence and creative fulfillment. It also compels her to defy conventions, rejecting the constraints of marriage and motherhood.

First published in 1899, Kate Chopin's novel drew criticism for its daring portrayal of female infidelity. Rediscovered decades later, it is now lauded for its lyricism, honesty, and astute social commentary. A groundbreaking feminist work and a landmark of modernist literature, *The Awakening* depicts one woman's journey to define her true self.

### *Great Expectations* - Charles Dickens

In this unflaggingly suspenseful story of aspirations and moral redemption, humble, orphaned Pip, a ward of his short-tempered older sister and her husband, Joe, is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman. And, indeed, it seems as though that dream is destined to come to pass — because one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In telling Pip's story, Dickens traces a boy's path from a hardscrabble rural life to the teeming streets of 19th-century London, unfolding a gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, and love and loss. Its compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

### *Sense and Sensibility* - Jane Austen

Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behaviour leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love - and its threatened loss - the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.

**Assignment 1, Part 2:** After reading and annotating your chosen novel, complete a Major Works Form. A digital copy of the form is on Google Classroom.

For the Major Works Form:

1. Characters: Write down the name, role and significance of the main characters and 2-3 adjectives that describe each character. Their role and their significance are different. What purpose do they serve in moving the plot forward?
2. Plot Summary: What are the main or most important events that occur in the novel? Identify at least 5 significant events.
3. Possible Themes and Quotes: What are **three** themes? Remember, a theme is what the author is trying to show us about human nature or life. What can we all relate to? A THEME is an independent clause with a

