

# Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignments 2011

## James Hubert Blake High School

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*King Lear*  
William Shakespeare

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
Zora Neale Hurston

Welcome to AP Literature!

We hope you enjoy reading these three selections of literature and look forward to learning your thoughts on these works in the fall. Please read the following requirements carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr. Caulfield, Mr. Schenk or Ms. Branson for clarification.

First, please be aware that we are not interested in what SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, or any other websites say about these texts. We want to hear what you think, so do the reading and the writing component *on your own*.

Secondly, don't procrastinate! Each of these works is a rich and engaging text. If you wait until the last minute and cram them into your brain, you will lose out *and* not be fully prepared to engage in class discussions the first week of school.

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### *King Lear*

*There is no one theme for a piece of literature nor is there one way to read a text.*

*King Lear* can be read and interpreted through a variety of lenses. Choose TWO of the four below and discuss how the play

can be seen through that particular lens. Establish how Shakespeare uses family, politics, the roles and rights of women in society, and/or the stories a culture tells and retells to create this tragedy:

- a family drama
- a political drama
- a feminist drama
- a fairy tale

Length? Say what you need to say. Use specific examples from the text to make your case. Remember to reflect on the whole text – not just one act or scene.

### *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*AP Literature requires as readers we focus not just on what an author says but also how he or she says it – what literary devices are used, what threads are created, what paths the author takes us down as we appreciate a work.*

As you read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, sticky-note passages that stand out to you as pivotal, enlightening, intriguing, or revealing. Choose three passages on which you wish to focus. The passages should be 4-6 paragraphs in length. Xerox/scan or retype these passages and annotate each:

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- write questions or comments in the margins
- underline key words/phrases
- note patterns of literary devices such as diction, imagery, metaphor, symbolism, detail, irony, allusion, foreshadowing, motifs...
- mark character traits and motivations

The annotation should reflect a close reading of that particular passage. After each annotation, write a paragraph entitled What I Think. This paragraph is a place for you to share your ideas and questions with us. It is not an essay or piece of formal writing but rather a place for you to share your engagement with the text.

When you have annotated and responded in writing to all three passages, write a final paragraph looking at the three passages again, but this time as a whole. In other words, how do these three passages together speak to your understanding of the novel as a whole? Hint: *As a whole* is used in AP LIT to mean a theme of the novel.

Your work will be collected the first day of class. You will have an objective test on *King Lear* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Be prepared for a graded Socratic Seminar on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as well.

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