

Dear Future AP Literature Senior,

Congratulations on accepting the challenges and rewards of a rigorous AP curriculum your senior year; you demonstrate anything but a pusillanimous character! Though arduous, your work will be rewarded through attaining life-long skills in critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and stylistic writing. Your summer reading reflects the challenging work you have embraced by selecting this class. Think of your summer assignments as preparation for a class in which reading, writing and discussion exude value beyond just “the grade.” In order to prepare you for the rigors of AP Literature, over the summer, please accomplish the following:

- A. Annotate the text and keep a double-entry journal for Barbara Kingsolver’s The Poisonwood Bible
 - a. Annotate your text (underline, highlight, make marginal notes, circle page numbers—whatever works for you). Mark passages that reveal the novel’s themes, characters and style. Annotating should not be burdensome: the goal is to help you remain focused while you read and to give you easy access later to aspects of the novel you want to revisit.
 - b. Double-entry Journal. Each journal topic should be approximately two typed pages as you follow the novel’s development. Be sure to cite your quotations, so you may reference them for writing assignments and the DYRT quiz the first week of school. A double-entry journal entails transcribing a quotation on the left and discussing it on the right. Avoid discursiveness and favor apt, laconic observations.
 - i. Character Voices/Character Development
 - ii. Symbols
 - iii. Major Events
 - iv. Literary and Stylistic Techniques
 - v. Essential Ideas
- B. Poetry – Certainly, Summer Reading and Poetry seem strange bedfellows, but perhaps this part of the requirement might actually be interesting. Many students find the type of poetry in AP Lit classes to be onerous, and the close textual analyses, nettlesome. Perhaps so, but let’s put those two adjectives into abeyance for now. This summer, select ten poems by the same author, annotate and briefly discuss the ideas the poet presents. One poem and discussion per page. Suggested poets include Dickinson, Frost, Ginsberg, Yeats, Wordsworth, Keats, Poe, Plath, Whitman, Dove, Angelou, Eliot, Donne, Rilke, Browning...any notable poet is encouraged! During your annotations (you will need to photocopy or print out the poem) note literary techniques the poet employs as well as how he or she works to develop a specific style to convey the overarching theme. Be sure your annotations demonstrate the range and quality of your knowledge of poetry terms. Discuss why you enjoyed the poem, and point out facets of the poem that empower it. Yes, we could give you a list of typical poetic elements, but the whole point is that you are going to show your prowess with the genre. Highlighting or color-coding some of these poetic elements is recommended.
- C. Free Book of your choice. Read one novel or work of nonfiction of your own choosing. Read for pleasure, without guilt. In the fall, we will discuss your selections and experiences with this reading, which we know many of you will do regardless of this assignment. Living an authentic life thematically ties many of our novels together, so may I recommend selecting books along this theme. Or, you could consider one of Watkins Mill’s Book Club selections! Novels meeting AP standards, and which could be used on the exam would include:
 - a. The Kite Runner
 - b. One Hundred Years of Solitude
 - c. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
 - d. The Old Man and the Sea

Of course with all reading, a good idea would be to keep a vocabulary log to track new words as you learn them. We will have weekly vocab quizzes on the top 240 words on the AP exam, coinciding with literary and scholarly works read in class. I would also recommend researching Kingsolver and her works to gain valuable insight into The Poisonwood Bible as she sets it within a historical conflict between America and the Congo. Below exists the novels we will be reading if you'd like to get a jump start:

<u>The Awakening</u>	Chopin
<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>	Hurston
<u>The Kite Runner</u>	Hosseini
<u>Beowulf</u>	Translated by Heaney
<u>Grendel</u>	Gardner
<u>King Lear</u>	Shakespeare
<u>A Thousand Acres</u>	Smiley
<u>Death of Ivan Ilyich</u>	Tolstoy

Lastly, consider perusing the College Board's AP website over the summer to familiarize yourself with the exam's format. Online practice tests as well as hints from the College Board will enhance your success in AP Literature. I look forward to working with you next year!

Mrs. Reilly