

# AP LITERATURE

## 2011 Summer Reading Assignment

### PART I (Read Novel)

The focus of AP Literature is to develop excellence in the interpretation and analysis of literature. Just as importantly, students in the course should cultivate an abiding appreciation of literary works. Put in simpler terms, students in AP Literature should relish opportunities to read novels, plays, poetry, and creative non-fiction. We trust that this indeed is the case, and that each of you has the personal integrity and character to do all of the assigned reading (rather than going to Spark Notes, for example).

In that vein, Part I of your Summer Reading is very simple. Select any novel from the list of novels on the next page (you can purchase a novel if you are able or borrow one from a local library). Other than each of the novels being MCPS-approved for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, there is not a commonality that these works all share. There are selections that were published two centuries ago and ones published in just the last few years. There are works from American novelists and then ones from authors from far-flung corners of the worlds. Novels on the list range from satires to romances, from dystopias to historical sagas, from picaresque comedies to philosophical inquiries. There is something for everyone, and we strongly suggest that you put in some time and effort to carefully selecting a novel that has a good chance of holding your interest. For nearly all of these novels, you can search the title in Wikipedia to get a quick overview of what the book is about, its style of writing, its publication date, etc.

**After you have read your selected novel, write a review of the novel that follows these guidelines:**

#### Do's

- Includes the title and name of author somewhere in first paragraph.
- Very briefly gives enough information about novel's plot, main characters, themes and style as is necessary for readers to understand your review.
- Fairly evaluates the story while discussing story's strengths and/or weaknesses
- References/paraphrases relevant passage(s) of novel in order to be more specific in your praise and criticism of novel
- Establishes an engaging voice and writing style (or at least that's the goal)

#### Don'ts

- Aimlessly summarize plot and characters
- Give a review based solely on your own personal tastes and biases
- Use first-person.
- Make vague and largely meaningless statements without textual support. So for example, don't just state the book is suspenseful and then neglect to explain how and why so.

**The review must be 1-2 pages in length (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-font) and is due on the first day of class on Monday, August 29. This assignment is worth 20 formative points**

**AUTHOR**

Agee, James  
Allende, Isabel  
Atwood, Margaret  
Boll, Heinrich  
Camus, Albert  
Chabon, Michael  
Coelho, Paulo  
Danticat, Edwidge  
Dinesen, Isak  
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor  
Flaubert  
Forster, E M  
Frazier, Charles  
Gardner, John  
Guest, Judith  
Heller, Joseph  
Kingsolver, Barbara  
Lahiri, Jhumpra  
Llosa, Mario Vargas  
Mann, Thomas  
McCarthy, Cormac  
McEwan, Ian  
Momaday, N. Scott  
Morrison, Toni  
Oates, Joyce Carol  
Ousmane, Sembene  
Proulx, Annie  
Roth, Phillip  
Safran Foer, Jonathan  
Salih, Tayeb  
Saramago, Jose  
Silko, Leslie Marmon  
Smiley, Jane  
Tolstoy, Leo  
Toole, John Kennedy  
Tyler, Anne  
Updike, John  
Vonnegut, Kurt  
Yates, Richard

**TITLE**

Death in the Family, A  
House of the Spirits, The  
Cat's Eye  
Billiards at Half Past Nine  
Plague, The  
Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay  
Alchemist, The  
Farming of Bones, The  
Out of Africa  
Crime and Punishment  
Madame Bovary  
Passage to India  
Cold Mountain  
Grendel  
Ordinary People  
Catch 22  
Poisonwood Bible  
Interpreter of Maladies  
Storyteller, The  
Death in Venice  
All the Pretty Horses  
Atonement  
House Made of Dawn  
Song of Solomon  
We Were the Mulvaney  
God's Bits of Wood  
Shipping News, The  
American Pastoral  
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close  
Season of Migration to the North  
Seeing  
Ceremony  
Thousand Acres, A  
Anna Karenina  
Confederacy of Dunces  
Accidental Tourist  
Rabbit Run  
Cat's Cradle  
Revolutionary Road

## Part II (Read poems)

AP Literature is different than your prior English classes because approximately a third of the assigned reading is poetry. We would like for you to expose yourself to poetry of the last four centuries. This assignment is worth 30 completion points.

You are to make your own poetry anthology, consisting of 8 poems. Your completed anthology is due the first day of school on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Requirements:

- The poems must be chosen from the attached list of poets, whose selected poems are available at [www.famouspoetsandpoems.com](http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com). On the left-hand side of the page, click on link 'All Poets'
- Among the 8 poems in your anthology, make sure
  - At least 1 is from poets born between 1501-1600
  - At least 1 is from poets born between 1601-1700
  - At least 1 is from poets born between 1701-1800
  - At least 2 are from poets born between 1801-1900
  - At least 2 are from poets born between 1901-2000

As you can see, the requirements by century do not add up to 8 poems. You have the flexibility to pick more than two poems from one of the centuries.

*(note: the website allows users to group poets by century they were born in)*

- Since we want you to go beyond what you already know, you can choose only one poet whose poetry you have already read in your lifetime, and you can select only one poem by any particular poet.
- There should be variety to the lengths of poems. Use your good judgment in meeting the expectations of the assignment.

### Format:

- Order the poems in your anthology chronologically from earliest to latest. If you are unsure of the publication year of the poem, use the poet's birth year as a guide.
- When you find a poem on famouspoetsandpoems.com, cut and paste the title, the poet's full name and the poem itself into a word document. In parentheses next to the poet's name, provide his/her birth date-death.
- For any **four** of your 8 selected poems, type 4-6 polished sentences that provide the explanation for why you're including the poem in your anthology. You are permitted to use first-person "I".

#### What you could discuss in your explanations:

--your reasons for why you picked that particular poet or poem; for example, connections to your own life experiences.

--your reaction to poem; for example, why you liked it (or didn't like it).

--your insights about how poetic devices (figurative language, imagery, rhyme, meter, tone, etc.) contribute to the overall meaning of the poem.

**Choose poets from the following lists:**

*This listing is organized by century in which the poets were born, which is how poets are chronologically ordered on [famouspoetsandpoems.com](http://famouspoetsandpoems.com). However, be aware that many of the poets born in the latter part of one century are more closely associated with the following century because that is the time period when they attained their renown as poets.*

**16<sup>th</sup> Century Poets (1501-1600)**

John Donne, Robert Herrick, George Herbert, Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe, Sir Walter Raleigh, William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney

**17<sup>th</sup> Century Poets (1601-1700)**

Anne Bradstreet, John Dryden, Jean de la Fontaine, John Milton, Andrew Marvell, Alexander Pope, Katherine Philips, Jonathan Swift

**18<sup>th</sup> Century Poets (1701-1800)**

William Blake, Robert Burns, Lord Byron, Samuel Coleridge, Thomas Gray, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Friedrich von Schiller, William Wordsworth

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Poets (1801-1900)**

Matthew Arnold, Anna Akhmatova, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Charles Baudelaire, ee cummings, Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, Gerald Manley Hopkins, A.E. Housman, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wilfred Owen, Christine Rossetti, Rainer Maria Rilke, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Carl Sandburg, Wallace Stevens, Lord Alfred Tennyson, Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, William Butler Yeats

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Poets (1901-2000)**

John Berryman, Billy Collins, Rita Dove, Carolyn Forché, Allen Ginsburg, Louise Glück, Langston Hughes, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney, Anthony Hecht, Randall Jarrell, Stanley Kunitz, Robert Lowell, Philip Larkin, Denise Levertov, Philip Levine, Audre Lorde, W.S. Merwin, Paul Muldoon, Pablo Neruda, Ogden Nash, Howard Nemerov, Sharon Olds, Sylvia Plath, Robert Pinsky, Adrienne Rich, Theodore Roethke, Craig Raine, Karl Shapiro, Charles Simic, Delmore Schwartz, Dylan Thomas, Richard Wilbur, Derek Walcott, C.K. Williams

**Questions?**

Please don't hesitate to email Mr. Huck at [Peter J Huck@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Peter_J_Huck@mcpsmd.org), Mrs. Reier at [Debra W Reier@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Debra_W_Reier@mcpsmd.org) or Ms. Meushaw at [Maureen T Meushaw@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Maureen_T_Meushaw@mcpsmd.org) if you need clarification about the assignment.

Enjoy the summer break! We're looking forward to meeting you next school year!