

2019 Summer Reading: AP Literature and Composition

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Your AP English teachers look forward to reading, discussing, and writing about classic stories and poems with you next year. To prepare for the year, you will need to read two novels and complete the associated assignments. We have designed these assignments to re-introduce you to the study of literature and to prepare you for the first weeks of class, when we will be analyzing plot and characterization in relation to the novels that you read this summer.

For these and all reading assignments, please understand that merely reading the words of the book is not adequate completion of the assignment. Since you are in a college level literature class, you must read *actively*, asking questions and making sense of the patterns, characters, and plot of the works that you read BEFORE coming to class.

For these and all writing assignments, please be sure the responses are neat, typed, double-spaced, with proper heading and font choices.

Assignment #1: Plot and Character Analysis of a Text

Read the assigned text for your section of AP Literature.

*****Please note, if your section changes, or you decide to switch sections, you will be responsible for reading the text for your new section within a week of returning to school.*****

Study of Plot Structures	African American Lit	Drama	Literature & Big Ideas
<i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Bronte	<i>The Color Purple</i> , by Alice Walker	<i>The Tempest</i> , by William Shakespeare	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> , by Zora Neale Hurston

Written Response (10F): Characterization is the development of a character's personality, actions, and relationships (paraphrased from *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literature*).

1. Choose 5-7 quotations that demonstrate how the main character develops and changes throughout the story. Then write a two paragraph analysis of how and why the character changes, and integrate 2-3 quotations as evidence.

Assignment #2: Free Choice

Choose one novel of literary merit to read over the summer. This work may be contemporary or classic, but you should be prepared to defend your choice during class discussion.

Written Response (10F): Theme is an author's salient commentary on the subject-matter of a text (paraphrased from the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*). Write a brief response (approximately 150-200 words) exploring one theme from your Free Choice text, and integrate relevant details from the text as support.

**Note: A theme provides commentary, so it cannot be expressed in one word. (ie. "Love" is not a theme).*

Assignment #3 (20HW): Argumentative Response – Why do we tell stories?

After reading your two texts, write an original argument (approximately 300-350 words) about why you think we tell stories. Consider the value and role of stories from a social, historical, cultural, and personal perspective. Integrate evidence from both of your summer reading texts to support your assertions, but you may include evidence from other texts as well.

Be prepared to defend your position during our first class seminar on the second day of school.

NOTE:

*Complete all summer assignments independently.
Do not discuss this assignment with any classmates or consult any online sources.*

AP Literature Written Response Rubric: Your written responses will be graded on the following criteria:

- 1) **Thesis**
 - Specific, Relevant, Insightful

- 2) **Use of evidence**
 - Varied. Apt, Specific
 - Presented as support (not merely summary or restatement)

- 3) **Analysis**
 - Mindful of complexity
 - Persuasive
 - Demonstrating sophisticated connection to the meaning of the work

- 4) **Conclusion**
 - Clinches the argument
 - Connects argument to a wider context

- 5) **Control of language**
 - Sentence structure
 - Vocabulary
 - Spelling and grammar

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