

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Syllabus 2021 – 2022

In AP Literature and Composition you are required to read **three** books this summer and complete the writing assignments on these books. **Please try to post your work by the required date. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, email me or post on Classroom so that I know it is going to be late.**

Assigned Texts (Students will choose THREE to read - ONE poetry collection and TWO Fiction Novels)

Poetry Collections:

1. *The Carrying* by Ada Limon (I have copies if you want to borrow one!)
2. *Citizen Illegal* by Jose Olivarez
3. *Counting Descent* by Clint Smith
4. *Reliquaria* by R. A. Villanueva
5. *The January Children* by Safia Elhillo
6. *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
7. *No Matter the Wreckage* by Sarah Kay

Fiction:

1. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
2. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
3. *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
4. *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan
5. *Homegoing* or *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi
6. *There There* by Tommy Orange
7. *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee
8. *Half of a Yellow Sun* or *Americanah* or *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
9. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
10. *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Summer Work 2020 Schedule:

All assignments are due by **11:59 pm** on Friday.

Google Classroom Class Code: [jwzw2ub](#)

July 5th - 9th - Poetry Collection

1. Review the handouts on [poetic devices](#) and [dialectical journals](#).
2. Choose 4 of the poems in the collection and complete 5 dialectical journals for each poem (20 total).
3. These dialectical journals should reflect your understanding of the complexities and the tensions within the poem

Additional Resources: I recommend that you watch the videos on poetry that two AP teachers created to review for the exam this past year. They are VERY helpful!! ([Videos 1-3](#))

July 19th - 23th - Poetry Collection

1. Write a reflection on your poetry collection. Your reflection should include the following elements:
 - a. Between 400-500 words
 - b. 5-6 poetic devices that the author used with examples of those devices and their significance in developing the themes in the collection
 - c. Any [motifs or themes](#) that the author focused on and what he or she was trying to convey about human nature.
 - d. An analysis of the complexities in the text.
 - e. Your opinion of the collection and any connections that you made to your own life. In what ways did this collection speak to you? What didn't you like about it?

August 2nd - 6th -Choice Fiction Novel #1

1. [Setting and Character Analysis](#) – Please use the questions on the setting and character analysis handouts to write two separate short comps, one on each topic.
2. Your short comps should include direct evidence from the novel, as well as sophisticated insights into the motifs and themes in the novel.
3. Each short comp should be about 300-400 words.
4. Please turn in your work on Google Classroom.

Additional Resources: Setting and Character Videos ([Videos 9 and 10](#))

August 16th - 20th - Choice Fiction Novel #2

1. [Style and Theme Analysis](#) - Please use the questions on the style and theme analysis handouts to write two separate short comps, one on each topic.
2. Your short comps should include direct evidence from the novel, as well as sophisticated insights into the motifs and themes in the novel.
3. Each short comp should be about 300-400 words.
4. Please turn in your work on Google Classroom.

August 30th - September 3rd - Free Response Essay

1. **Long Composition:** Choose one of the following prompts for your essay. Your essay should be 4-5 pages long, and it must contain **direct evidence** from the novel. I will be using the "[Literary Argument](#)" rubric to score your essay and to provide feedback for your final draft.
2. Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that "Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted." Yet Said has also said that exile can become "a potent, even enriching" experience. Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from "home," whether that home is the character's birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character's experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

3. A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.
4. "And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency." Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*. Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze the novel as a whole.
5. Many works of literature contain a character who intentionally deceives others. The character's dishonesty may be intended either to help or to hurt. Such a character, for example, may choose to mislead others for personal safety, to spare someone's feelings, or to carry out a crime. Choose a novel or play in which a character deceives others. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character's deception and discuss how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
6. ***Your essay is due by September 4th at 11:59 PM on Google Classroom.***

Additional Resources: Writing a Defensible Thesis, Evidence and Commentary, and Sophistication (Videos 18-24)