

Dear Students of AP Literature,

I am so happy that you made the choice to continue your English journey with me in a course that focuses on works from the literary canon. It is important for you to have experience with writers who have transcended time and whose topics are as relevant today as they were when the novels were written. We will focus not only on what the writers are saying, but on how and why they are saying it. It is a good idea to get an idea of the time period of the writer and some historical background before you read to help you appreciate and understand the writers' messages.

We will refer to these works often, especially in the beginning of the year, so you will need keep a reading journal, being sure to log characters, setting, conflict, point of view, key moments of text, and any questions or thoughts that come to mind as you read each work. The reading journal will be checked and students will receive credit for the work they have done. This will help prepare students for our initial class discussions, the summer reading exam, and ultimately the AP Lit exam.

Students are required to read the two texts list below and will have a choice of a third from the suggested texts. Looking forward to September and diving into great discussions.

The required texts are:

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

The suggested texts include:

Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

Wuthering Heights by Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Emma by Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The Stranger by Albert Camus

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Go Tell it on the Mountain by James Baldwin

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Morrison

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison

Hawthorne

The Bluest Eye by Toni

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel

As an English Department we **strongly** suggest that our students read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Mrs. Lingardo