

AP Literature and Composition

Summer Assignment, 2018

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Welcome to AP Literature and Composition,

The Assignment: Choose a book: I have attached a reading list taken from previous AP Lit and Comp exams. Your assignment for this summer is to read **one** (two if you want to begin to build your AP Lit toolbox!) of these works. You have several titles and authors to choose from, some of which may be unfamiliar to you. The books on this list are probably not the type of books you would typically choose for some light, vacation reading. However, they serve a few important purposes: They are a sampling of the types of texts we'll be reading, discussing, and writing about in our AP Literature class. They provide you with enough depth and complexity to get you thinking about key themes and the elements used to express them. They begin/add to your literary toolbox which you'll need to pull from when you take the AP exam next spring.

Take notes: In order to get the most out of your reading (and make your fall assignments much easier), make sure you're an active reader. As you read, take notes over **character/character development, conflict, theme, rhetorical devices/word choice, setting, and form/structure**. I would recommend setting up a page for each category in a notebook or journal. Pose questions and do your best to answer them. Remember to jot down page numbers so it is easy to find the passages you want. These notes should be ample proof that you have carefully read the work. **Do not just summarize the plot!** Write a final response: Write a one-page response as soon as possible after you finish the book. This is just an informal, first person reaction to the novel. Did you like it? Why or why not? What did you find to be interesting in the text as a whole? There are really no rules for a response; it's just a chance for you to collect your thoughts on the entire piece and vent your excitement, frustration, or questions. Your notes and response **will be due the first day of class**—make sure to bring them with you! A structured writing assignment will follow on the second class meeting.

Other Important Information:

- The reading selections for AP Literature will be provided in digital format. If you wish to have a print copy, you should either plan to purchase one or utilize your favorite library.
- You should review the terms from the link below. We want to have a common language when we discuss literature!
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1roevce0ZiIC6QSw137ss4cuuQtROzQPJI3-M-izkG30/edit#gid=0>

Read One

(Two, if you are a true student of literature!)

Atonement-McEwan
The Beautiful and the Damned-Fitzgerald
Beloved-Morrison
McCarthy
La Bête Humaine-Zola
Solitude-Marquez
Crime and Punishment-Dostoevsky
East of Eden-Steinbeck
Pride and Prejudice-Austen
Faust, Part 1-Goethe
For Whom the Bell Tolls-Hemingway
Williams
The Grapes of Wrath-Steinbeck
The Handmaid's Tale-Atwood
novel)-O'Brien
Inferno(Part III of *Divina Commedia*)-Dante
Hurston
Jude the Obscure-Hardy
Love in the Time of Cholera-Marquez
Middlemarch-Eliot
Wolf?-Albee

Mrs. Dalloway-Woolf
My Antonia-Cather
No Country for Old Men-

One Hundred Years of

The Poisonwood Bible-Kingsolver
Pygmalion-Shaw
Silas Marner-Eliot
The Stranger-Camus
A Streetcar Named Desire-

A Tale of Two Cities-Dickens
The Things They Carried(the

Their Eyes Were Watching God-

Things Fall Apart-Achebe
The Trial-Kafka
Who's Afraid of Virginia

***Please be aware that some of these titles contain adult content (language and situations).
Please read with a mature and open mind.***