

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition 12
Summer Reading 2018
Saint Vincent Ferrer High School
Mr. Mullaney

Welcome to AP English 12! I'm excited to have the opportunity to get to know you and to discuss exciting books next year; summer reading will get us started! Note: art should move us to thought, to joy, to anger, to contemplation, to discussion, (to action perhaps?). The primary purpose of literature is not to engender fretting and anxiety about academic responsibilities... So before I reveal to you just what those academic responsibilities are, I want to encourage you to give yourself the freedom to appreciate and respond to the books on a *human level* first and foremost.

You are required to read the following three novels:

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Mark up each book as you read. (Can you do that on a Kindle?) Highlight/circle/check-off/dog-ear key passages that reveal characterization, conflict, epiphanies, central themes, etc.

Assignments—For each book, complete the following:

1. In a well-developed paragraph, explain how the protagonist addresses the central conflict of the novel. Of course you must allude to basic plot elements, but delve deeper. Consider issues like: Is the protagonist dynamic? Passive? Is the protagonist well-suited to address the conflict? Does she or he have strengths or defects of character that come into play? (Obviously you must clearly state what the conflict is in order to answer this question effectively.)
2. Include four quotes from each book and provide analysis that reveals how and why the quote is especially significant. A few sentences of commentary for each quote is appropriate.
3. For each book, provide one paragraph of personal reaction—in other words, what elicited a strong emotional response from you, for good or bad? Consider how you responded to the book. (I have thick-skin and am not offended if the book angers you or upsets you. Those are legitimate reactions to art.) Strive to be concrete and precise. A flat statement like “I really liked it when (plot detail)” is not insightful without elaboration.

There you have it! Six entries for each book! Enjoy and happy reading!

(Note: avoid critical commentaries that I, of course, have access to as well. I'd like to know what YOU think.)