

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition 12
Summer Reading 2019
Saint Vincent Ferrer High School
Mr. Mullaney

Welcome to AP English 12! I'm happy to have the opportunity to get to know you and to discuss exciting books next year; summer reading will get us started! 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 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:

The Stranger by Albert Camus

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Beloved by Toni Morrison

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

Assignments—FOR EACH BOOK, complete three paragraphs. Each paragraph should have a **clear topic sentence** with **supporting evidence** and **relevant quotes from the novels**. These are distinct paragraphs and not an essay. Each paragraph should be long enough to answer effectively. 10 to 15 sentences each should be adequate.

1. **PARAGRAPH ONE:** Identify a central literary element (eg: a recurring motif, a predominant symbol, a key character trait, repetition of an important detail), show how it is present in the work and the role it serves in the novel. Examples of such elements from books you have already studied might be the recurrence of blood imagery in *Macbeth* or the repetition of the word “honest” in reference to Iago in *Othello*.
2. **PARAGRAPH TWO:** How does the protagonist address the central conflict? The question demands that you make judgments about characterization—not merely rehash plot. Consider issues like: Is the protagonist dynamic? Passive? Is the protagonist well-suited to address the conflict? Does he or she 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.)
3. **PARAGRAPH THREE:** Provide a 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 am not offended if the book angers 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.

(Note: Base your responses on YOUR OWN insights and not those of critical sources. Also a well-organized paragraph is focused; **assignments that are excessively wordy or lengthy with no organization will score poorly.**)