

AP English Literature Summer Work – 2011

Welcome to AP English Literature!

Our classroom blog address: aplitsota.blogspot.com

Our classroom forum: aplitsota.lefora.com

On our blog you will find important information for the AP Lit course. There you will find our course syllabus and link to the College Board website and our forum. Throughout the course you will be expected to visit this website daily for notes and resources concerning the class material. Please logon to our blog website (internet access & email address necessary) and become a member of this blog. The blog will be updated throughout the summer and you will be required to follow along with supplemental materials concerning our reading & summer unit.

But, first of all, as stated in the course description, our primary focus in AP English Literature is the careful analysis of literature. Before we begin, you must complete the summer work so that there is something for us to carefully analyze. Reassure yourself that I am preparing you for the pace of our class. You will be expected to read a major work every two weeks or so once school starts in September, and the summer work is a good indication whether or not you will be able to complete this requirement. I suggest any student who is not able to complete the summer reading, serious consider enrolling in AP English Literature. There is a lot of reading required for this course. It's better for you to expect this now, than be upset about it later. If you're going to, you must drop by **August 1**. Please contact Ms. Nicastro or your guidance counselor to drop. After this date, you're stuck with me.

Second, be prepared with your summer work **the first day of class**. I will be collecting your "notebooks" (see below), and the essay on the first day back from summer break. The forum posts must be completed BEFORE school starts in September. There are four or more literature responses due from our on-line classroom forum. Follow these directions very closely so that you get full credit for this work. Your summer work will be a major portion of your first marking period grade. Do it well.

Finally, rest assured that help is available. Libraries have a great deal of literary criticism on the books chosen for summer reading. The internet is also a good source for quick help. But if all else fails, you may contact me with questions or for guidance at any time during the summer through email or from the AP blog. My school email address is as follows: bradley.craddock@rcsdk12.org. Please no spam – I'm a vegetarian.

Summer Work (portfolio with materials should have been picked up prior to the end of the year; library books can be picked up after June 6 in our school library or purchased.)

I. Required Reading:

- A. "Why Read the Classics?"; essay by Italo Calvino (included in your portfolio)
- B. "What Should Students Read" essay by Steven Wolk
- C. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Cannot Read" by Francine Prose
- D. Read the literary criticism essays for the summer reading novels.
- E. All students must read the following titles, available either from our library, the city library system, or fine bookstores throughout the world.
- F. #4 & #5 must be bought or borrowed from an outside library or bookstore.
 1. REQUIRED: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (& critical essays)
 2. REQUIRED: *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess (& critical essay)
 3. REQUIRED: *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison (& critical essay)
 4. REQUIRED: Any **one** title from SOTA's Summer Reading list for 12th grade students (no essay)
 5. OPTIONAL: Any novel or selection from the secondary reading list (see below)
 6. OPTIONAL: Any novel by Jane Austen (your choice) (& optional essay)

Completing the optional reading assignments boosts your summer work grade. This is the only way to get an “A+.” Please note that A+’s exemplify excellence, dedication, and/or intellectual growth. AP grades are weighted, so a “B” in an AP course is equivalent to getting an “A” in a non-AP course.

II. Required Writing:

- A. The notebook. (I suggest a simple 3-ring binder with lots of loose leaf paper, but pick something you will enjoy carrying about during the year.)
1. As you read each of the works, please list the following information in your notebook:
 - a. Title and Author
 - b. Setting and *brief* historical notes about time period/setting of the novel
 - c. Identify protagonist and antagonist, major characters
 - d. Identify narrative style, tone, and POV (point of view)
 - e. Write a *brief* summary of the plot
 - f. Identify possible themes, tropes, symbols, allusions, motifs, etc.
 2. For each novel read the appropriate critical essay included in your packet. Then post a short response to the literature on our classroom forum. You can’t goof up on this one – reflect on the book, the criticism you read, and the experience you had while reading it. You are engaging in **reader-response criticism**. Information and links to the forum are on the classroom blog: aplitsota.blogspot.com
 3. Because nothing is just busy work, please read Italo Calvino’s & Steven Wolk’s discussion about the classics and apply the ideas to the works you read for the summer. Pick ONE book (required or optional) and write an essay (2-3 pages) in which you discuss and reflect on the ideas found in Calvino’s essay. Essentially, why is this book considered a “classic” and why should anyone want to read it? Use the appropriate critical essays to help you support your ideas. Refer to these essays as secondary sources. Discuss what Calvino, Wolk, and the critic writes, and explain how their argument applies to your chosen novel. Argue for or against the reading of this book.

You must use secondary sources to support your thesis (the critical essays included), and please type your essay using MLA format (NOTE: MLA format help can be found on line or in any library). Refer to the handout on how to write an effective argumentative/persuasive/research essay for assistance.

- B. Literary Terms: Please read and familiarize yourself with the literary terms in the handout. Keep this page in your notebook. Refer to it throughout the course.

III. Secondary OPTIONAL Reading (not necessarily required, but helpful): If you have not read these standard classics, you may wish to do some catching up this summer. These books will enhance your literary knowledge. Read as many of them as you can. Students will gain extra credit (the only way to get an A+) for reading some of these and including a write-up in your notebook. If you complete these tasks, please post a response on our forum.

- a. *The Iliad and the Odyssey* by Homer
- b. *The Aeneid* by Virgil
- c. *The Old Testament* (preferably *Genesis*)
- d. *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
- e. *Northanger Abbey; Pride & Prejudice; Sense and Sensibility, Emma, Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen

- f. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- g. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- h. *The Bluest Eye; Jazz; Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- i. *The Catcher in the Rye; Fran & Zoe; Nine Stories* by J.D. Salinger
- j. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; Puddin' Head Wilson; A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain
- k. *The Grapes of Wrath, Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- l. *A Farewell to Arms, The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway
- m. *Fahrenheit 451, Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury
- n. *Fences, The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson
- o. *Native Son, Black Boy* by Richard Wright
- p. *Glass Menagerie, Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams
- q. *Death of a Salesman, The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- r. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- s. *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow
- t. *1984, Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- u. *Turn of the Screw or Daisy Miller* (short stories) by Henry James
- v. *Moby Dick or Billy Budd* by Herman Melville
- w. *Heart of Darkness; Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad
- x. *Crime and Punishment, The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- y. *Antigone* by Sophocles and/or Anouilh
- z. *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo
- aa. *Return of the Native; Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy
- bb. *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton
- cc. *Romeo & Juliet; Julius Caesar; Merchant of Venice; Othello; Macbeth; Hamlet; Midsummer Nights' Dream* by William Shakespeare
- dd. Poets: collected works of: Emily Dickenson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, or any other modern or contemporary poet
- ee. Pick a current book of literary merit from a book store and read it. Repeat this option as often as possible.