

# Plainview English Literature Summer Reading Assignment for 2020-2021

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is a fun, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info. All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in according to the schedule included below.

## **Assignment 1: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)**

A large portion of our studies will revolve around poetry. We will study poetry in full units and on a bi-weekly basis. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of "great poetry." Select a poem that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP English Literature. If you need to look up some title, please feel free to do so; however, you should not look up any analysis of the work. Once you select a poem, you will read and annotate it. Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a "great" poem. I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no "wrong answer!" **On the first day of school, you are expected to turn in the Annotated copy of the poem, and you will turn in the typed, electronic copy of your reflection as soon as computers are checked out to you. Your reflection will be grading using the attached rubric.**

## **Assignment 2: Purchase, read, annotate, and write over a book of "Literary Merit"**

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP English exam. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with "literary merit," although they never define that label. In preparation for our first week of written analysis, you need to select one title off of the approved list (see backside of this sheet or you may use any that have been on the test previously- list also included) and read it over the summer. Some titles are very long, but others are quite short, so there is no reason not to complete this assignment!

Select a title to read over the summer. As you read, you should annotate. The AP specifically stresses the importance of understanding the function of characters, setting, plot and structure, narration, and figurative language, so these are elements you should consider as you annotate. Then, upon completion of reading and annotating, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what the phrase "literary merit" means to you and why this novel or play has literary merit. You may choose any title off of the list of suggested titles (attached here). DO NOT re-read something or choose something obviously below your reading level. DO NOT read one of the books that we will read as a class this year.

**During the first week of school, you are expected to write an analysis essay over your book, and then you will submit an electronic copy of your reflection as soon as computers are checked out to you. Your reflection will be grading using the attached rubric.**

## **Assignment 3: Purchase, read, and annotate a copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor (Revised Edition)* by Thomas C. Foster**

In order to bolster your ability to analyze long texts, we will spend two weeks at the beginning of the year working through Foster's text. This work will include reading quizzes, analysis of excerpts, and various writing assignments. **We will begin reading quizzes no later than the second week of school, so you must have it read and annotated by then.** In order to be prepared for these quizzes, you need to purchase the text, read it, and annotate it over the summer. When you are annotating, take note of the examples of famous works (these are the types of works on the AP Lit exam), note the concept he delineates in each chapter, be sure you understand what the function of the concept is within the context of full texts, and jot down similar examples which you have seen in books or movies.

## Written Reflection Rubric

### Formatting/Neatness (points will be docked if not properly formatted)

- Homework was typed, printed by the student at home, and submitted on Google classroom properly
- Assignment is formatted in MLA format (including the header, heading, and font)
- Reflection is the proper length (usually 250+ words, unless otherwise assigned)

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### Organization

- Reflection begins with introductory paragraph
- Paper is organized using paragraphs
- Assignment makes use of transition words and phrases throughout.
- Reflection concludes with a final closing paragraph.

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### Textual Reflection

- Written reflection thoroughly responds to the question or task that was assigned.
- Reflection makes specific references to the text, using quotes and references when possible.

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### Original Analysis

- Student demonstrates understanding of lesson and/or task.
- Student displays critical thinking and/or creative thought.
- Student goes beyond class discussion and provides original, analytical contributions.

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### Mechanics

- Assignment is free of all spelling, mechanical, and grammatical errors.

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(-1/2 pt. for each mistake)

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Comments:

**\*\* Please note I have not read all of these works, so I cannot comment on all of them. Before you select, research a few, and choose one you think you may enjoy. \*\***

## Novels to Choose From:

### Ancient Texts

800 BC – *The Iliad* - Homer

800 BC – *The Odyssey* – Homer

### Neoclassical

1759 – *Candide* – Voltaire

### Romantic

1811 – *Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen

1813 – *Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen

1838 – *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens

### Victorian

1847 – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë

1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë

1850 – *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne

1869 – *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott

1884 – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain

1897 – *Dracula* – Bram Stoker

1891 – *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde

1899 – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin

### Naturalist

1903 – *The Call of the Wild* – Jack London

1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton

### Modern

1915 – *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka

1925 – *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald

1925 – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf

1937 – *Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck

1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck

1945 – *Animal Farm* – George Orwell

1949 – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell

### Post Modern

1951 – *The Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger

1952 – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck

1953 – *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury

1959 – *A Separate Peace* – John Knowles

1960 – *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee

1967 – *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok

1969 – *Slaughterhouse-Five* – Kurt Vonnegut\*

1970 – *Grendel* – John Gardner

1976 – *A River Runs Through It* – Norman Maclean

1984 – *The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros

1987 – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison\*

1989 – *A Prayer for Owen Meany* – John Irving\*

1990 – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien

1994 – *In the Lake of the Woods* – Tim O'Brien

1996 – *Push* – Sapphire\*

1997 – *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier

1997 – *Memoirs of a Geisha* – Arthur Golden

1998 – *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood\*

2001 – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan\*

2001 – *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel

2002 – *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri

2005 – *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* – Kim Edwards\*

2005 – *The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Wells\*

2005 – *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Jonathan Safran Foer

2006 – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy

2008 – *Little Bee* – Chris Cleave\*

2010 – *Room* – Emma Donoghue

2013 – *The Goldfinch* – Donna Tartt\*

2014 – *All the Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr

2014 – *A Man Called Ove* – Fredrik Backman

2015 – *Go Set a Watchman* – Harper Lee

2015 – *The Nightingale* – Kristin Hannah

**\*Books marked with an asterisk require signed permission from your parents to read them, as they contain questionable material. I feel that literary merit is still present despite this material, so I still endorse the books. However, your parents do have a right to know what you are reading and you should discuss your choice with them.**

### **Suggested Plays:**

*Antigone* – Sophocles

Any Shakespearean play

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* – Tennessee Williams

*The Crucible* – Arthur Miller

*A Doll's House* – Henrik Ibsen

*An Enemy of the People* – Henrik Ibsen

*Our Town* – Thornton Wilder

*Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Becket

## **CLASS NOVELS- DO NOT READ THESE!**

1902 – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad

1954 – *Lord of the Flies* – William Golding

1998 – *The Poisonwood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver

2003 – *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini\*

*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller

*The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde

