

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition 2022-2023

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Introduction: Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!!! When you chose to enroll in this class, you chose to begin your college education. Congratulations!

If you read carefully, write fluently, and participate enthusiastically in the class, you will be well prepared for the AP English Literature and Composition examination in May. If you pass the exam, many colleges and universities will allow you to “place out” of a required English course. That means you will be free to take other offerings and enhance your college education from the start.

Because you are embarking on an advanced level of academic material, an advanced level of scholarship is required of you. This class will build upon the rigorous standards upheld last year in Honors American Literature: daily discussion of challenging literature, weekly quizzes on focused reading and vocabulary, regular essays to probe understanding and analytic arguments. Essays will be discussed in class, and I will comment on thesis statements, outlines, and/or rough drafts prior to submission. You will be afforded the opportunity to rewrite all major essays.

In AP Literature and Composition we will examine questions that have vexed humankind for millennia through works that have been respected for centuries. These questions include:

- Is there meaning in human tragedy?
- Does the universe tend toward order or chaos?
- What are the characteristics of true love?
- What is the nature of mankind?
- What is the proper role of the individual in society?
- What is the relationship between the creator and the created?
- Why do some people struggle to “fit in?”
- Where do science and technology fit in a rapidly changing world?

Grading:

Major Assignments: 50% – Timed Essays and Independent Writing Assignments

Performance Tasks: 35% - Quizzes, Claim & Thesis Statements, Homework, Classwork, Graded Discussion, Vocabulary, Etc.

Test Preparation: 15% - AP Classroom Practice Assignments, Claim and Thesis Statements

***All assignments must be submitted on time. If an unforeseen circumstance arises, you need to contact me as soon as possible. Unexcused late work will not receive credit.

Unit 1: Creating a Monster – Tales of Classic Gothic Literature

Standards: CHR 1.A, SET 2.A, STR 3.A; STR 3.B, NAR 4.A; NAR 4.B, LAN 7.A

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *Frankenstein*
- *A Picture of Dorian Gray*
- Selections from Hawthorn and Poe
- Selections from British and American Romantic Poetry (Byron, Shelly, Keats, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Browning, Poe, etc.)

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

What similar traits, desires, problems, and goals are inherent to the human experience?

How do people reconcile pain and suffering with love, kindness, and empathy?

What characteristics contribute to criminal behavior?

Unit 2: Traveling South - The Evolution of a Genre

Standards: CHR 1.A, STR 3.C, STR 3.D, FIG 5.B, FIG 6.A, FIG 6.B, LAN 7.A

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *As I Lay Dying or Light in August* (TBD)
- Selections from Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner, Joyce Carol Oates, Carson McCullers, Toni Morrison, Truman Capote, Stephen King, Eudora Welty, etc.

Literary Analysis Skills and Terms:

Speaker, stanza types, poetic form (lyric, narrative, descriptive), rhyme, meter, musical devices, figurative language, contrast, juxtaposition

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

How do our choices influence our lives?

How does where we come from influence our lives?

What is the role of family and relationship in happiness?

Unit 3: Shakespeare, Shakespeare, Shakespeare! – The Man – The Myth – The Legend

Standards: CHR 1.A, CHR 1.B, SET 2.A, STR 3.E, STR 3.F, LAN 7.A, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *Hamlet* and/or another of his plays (TBD)
- Selections from various short stories, poems, and essays (TS Eliot, Hemingway – “A Clean Well-Lighted Place”, Beatniks, etc.)

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

How do our choices influence our lives?

How does where we come from influence our lives?

What is the role of family and relationship in happiness?

What are the roles of fate, providence, and personal choice in a person's life?

Are people responsible for their own tragedies?

Are characters purely good or purely evil or a combination?

Unit 4: Love and Relationships – Contrasting Experiences With Different Endings

Standards: CHR 1.A, CHR 1.C, CHR 1.D, SET 2.B, SET 2.C, STR 3.A, STR 3.D, NAR 4.A, NAR 4.B, NAR 4.C, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- *The Awakening*
- Selections from various short stories, poems, and essays (with a focus on The Harlem Renaissance, Kate Chopin, and Charlotte Gilmore Perkins)

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

How do our choices influence our lives?

How does where we come from influence our ability to mature?

What is the role of family and relationship in coming-of-age?

Are people responsible for their own development?

Unit 5: Home and Family -The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Standards: STR 3.C, STR 3.D, FIG 5.A, FIG 5.B, FIG 5.D, FIG 6.B, FIG 6.C, FIG 6.D, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
- "Much Madness is divinest Sense" by Emily Dickinson, "Landlady" by P.K. Page, and "Gaslight Stories: The Madwoman in the Attic" by Sarah Wise

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

Can people with differing opinions find common ground?

Can an individual hold conflicting opinion of a topic?

What is the result of this type of internal conflict?

What is "madness?"

What characteristics are essential for success?

Why do people fail?

What are the results of regret and missed opportunity?

Is each person to blame for his own tragedy?

Unit 6 and 7: Independent Novel

Standards: CHR 1. A, CHR 1.C, CHR 1.E, STR, 3.A, STR 3.B, STR 3.D, NAR 4.C, NAR 4.D, FIG 5.C, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- Student Choice Novel (from an approved list)
- Selections from various short stories, poems, and essays

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

Determined by students

Unit 8: Identity and Culture – The Significance of Place

Standards: STR 3.C, STR 3.D, FIG 5.B, FIG 5.C, FIG 6.B, FIG 6.D, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- *The God of Small Things*
- Selections from various short stories, poems, and essays

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

Is there meaning in human suffering?

How do people find their place in a society that rejects them?

Unit 9: The Second Coming – Violence, Destruction, and Rebirth

Standards: STR 3.C, STR 3.D, FIG 5.B, FIG 5.C, FIG 6.B, FIG 6.D, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.B, LAN 7.C, LAN 7.D, LAN 7.E

Works may include but are not limited to:

- *Lord of the Flies*
- *The Road*
- Selections from various short stories, poems, and essays (Yeats)

Essential Questions/Thematic Focus:

Are people inherently good or evil?

