

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition:
Mrs. Pozin
Summer Assignment: Reading, Questioning, and Writing

Dear Future AP Lit student,

I am looking forward to serving as your guide through your AP Lit journey. It will be an adventure filled with some of the most poignant voices in literature. In order to prepare for our odyssey together, you will need to complete the following summer reading and writing assignments.

The summer assignment is an important component of the AP English Literature program, and it serves two functions: 1) to keep you active as readers, expanding your horizons, and 2) to forestall brain death through writing about what you have read. These important requirements will ease your transition into the AP English Literature program.

Happy Reading and Writing. ☺

See you in September.

~Pozin

***I suggest purchasing TWO composition notebooks (one for novels and one for poetry-please keep each journal in a separate notebook). Composition books are inexpensive and slip easily into your backpack. We will continue to use these journals throughout the year, and they will serve as integral pieces in your preparation for the exam.

I. Required Book and Response Journal

***The Kite Runner*- Khaled Hosseini**

As you read, please maintain an analytical reading journal. This reading journal is a record of your intellectual journey throughout the text. Please structure your notebook investigation according to the following requirements:

CLEARLY LABEL EACH AND INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS WHERE APPROPRIATE

1. For every 100 pages, please complete a close reading of two significant scenes. Once you have examined the techniques used in each of these scenes (diction, imagery, etc), analyze the significance of each scene in 1-2 paragraphs as it relates to the meaning of the work as a whole.
2. For every 100 pages, please select three quotations. Then, please analyze the significance of your chosen quotations as they, also, illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
3. Once you have finished reading, consider how the text is narrated. What does Hosseini achieve through this point of view? Please support your response to this question with three examples from the text. How do these three scenes specifically contribute to the effectiveness of the point of view? Why?
4. Ultimately, what overarching question(s) is Hosseini asking us to consider? You may

wish to base your discussion on a theme you have identified, or on a central question.
What generalization does the work make about the human condition?

This journal will be your resource as you write and as we discuss these works early in the fall.
Please bring your reading journal throughout our September discussions.

PLEASE!! DO NOT INCLUDE PLOT SUMMARY IN THIS JOURNAL.

(Please note: *The Kite Runner* is in addition to the book you have selected to read over the summer as part of the GHS summer reading discussion groups program. You may find it a beneficial aspect of your reading to keep a response journal for this choice title as well, as we expect you to be AP student leaders in your GHS summer reading book discussions)

II. Poetry Exploration Assignment and Journal (In a separate notebook)

The purpose of this assignment is to read many, many poems with the goal of answering the essential question “What is quality poetry?”

As you read the assigned chapters outlined below, please also search for poems and poets that you find appealing/interesting/stimulating.

Please read the first three chapters in the text *Sound and Sense*. You should have signed out one of these texts at GHS. For each chapter, please complete the following work:

CLEARLY LABEL EACH REQUIREMENT

1. Please take notes on each chapter (including terms, strategies you learned, or anything you found interesting).
2. Please respond to each of the questions that accompany four poems of your choice from each chapter.
3. Finally, please identify two poems per chapter that speak to you. For each of these poems, please respond to the following prompts:
 - a. Why did this poem stand out?
 - b. What techniques (diction, imagery, details, language, syntax, point of view, etc) contributed to the power of the poem? And, more importantly, how did those techniques contribute to creating the power of the poem?
 - c. What is the speaker’s experience as presented in the poem, and what is the poet asking us to think about with regard to this experience?

You may include artwork or add calligraphy if inspired.

This poetry journal is due the first day of class in the fall and will be your 1st major AP English Literature grade.

Please enjoy your summer. Read books you have been waiting to read. See you very soon!