

May, 2024

Dear AP English Literature Scholar,

Congratulations on being accepted for the challenge of AP English! You have *made a choice* to stretch your intellect through the reading and contemplation of powerful and sometimes difficult literature. Since you have made this choice, I assume that you love to read and are eager to consider, analyze, and discuss what you have read. I ask you now to commit yourself to this endeavor by pledging never to substitute a film or commercially published notes for the reading of literature, and, of course, never to engage in academic dishonesty in any guise.

In preparation for AP Literature and Composition, and aside from any other reading you may choose to do on your own, you are expected to complete the assignment below.

1. Choose and read **one** novel from the following list:

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (do not confuse with Wells' novel)

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

*The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (**do not confuse with Wells' novel**)

*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy

*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

2. Annotate as you read, and prepare an Academic Journal. This will facilitate the process of writing about the text later. It will also be useful in reviewing the text prior to the AP exam. In preparing your journal, pay special attention to the following **Big Ideas and Enduring Understandings of AP Literature and Composition**:

**CHARACTER** - Characters in literature allow readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and cultural norms represented by those characters.

**SETTING** - Setting and the details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.

**STRUCTURE** - The arrangement of the parts and sections of a text, the relationship of the parts to each other, and the sequence in which the text reveals information are all structural choices made by a writer that contribute to the reader's interpretation of a text.

**NARRATION** - A narrator's or speaker's perspective controls the details and emphases that affect how readers experience and interpret a text.

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** - Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text.

**LITERARY ARGUMENTATION** - Readers establish and communicate their interpretations of literature through arguments supported by textual evidence.

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**You may organize your Academic Journal in any way that makes logical sense to you, though it may be most effective to organize by chapter, small groups of chapters, or numbers of pages in which you periodically note any of the Enduring Understandings as they occur, as well as any outstanding literary elements (metaphor, foreshadowing, imagery, doubling, allusion, diction, foil, irony, mood, tone, etc). There is not a strict length requirement for your journal, but if it is fewer than 12-15 typewritten pages, you probably have not been meticulous enough. YOU WILL SUBMIT THE JOURNAL WHEN WE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER.**

Do not delay in procuring your book; some are long and all are complex. You will want to read carefully, and not cursorily. *Along with completing the journal over the summer, and a written assessment when we return to school, you will be expected to discuss the text that you read in a way that reflects your depth of understanding.*

If you have any questions at all, please send me an email at [epalacios@ionaprep.org](mailto:epalacios@ionaprep.org).  
Enjoy a summer of great literature!

Sincerely,

Ms. Palacios