

2021-2022 AP Literature & Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
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“The role of a writer is not to say what we can all say, but what we are unable to say.”

-- Anais Nin

To borrow from a teacher I admire, Susan Barber, here are my thoughts on summer work. I want it to be meaningful, enjoyable, and reasonable. Overloading you with tedious assignments just to “set the tone” for the class will not benefit you and isn’t my style. The goals for summer work in AP lit are to read interesting contemporary fictional works of literary merit, continue thinking deeply about and evaluating texts, and get to know you. I think this work is the right balance for those goals. All work is due on the first day of school. Point values for each task are listed below. Points will be combined and count as the first text grade of the year.

Here’s what you should do before the first day of school:

Part 1: Organizing

- ☐ Join the 2021-22 AP LIT Google Classroom: **CODE** [pprtoz4](#)

Text -- [How to take efficient and neat notes](#) and [How I take notes \(neat and effective\)](#)

- ☐ After watching StudyTee’s notes system, I want you to think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used this summer and throughout the year.

Assignment -- Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). We will use this notebook to create notes for major works that we study, so find one that you really like.

Why it is important --The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy; the most important aspects are not always salient. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. This notebook will serve as a means to consolidate what you have learned throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make. Make it your own. Decorate it if you like or keep it clean and clear.

Part II -- Reading

Text 1 -- [Leo Babauta's Why I Read \(+ a Dozen Book Recommendations\)](#)

Assignment -- Write a page of notes about your relationship with reading. Share an honest assessment of the role that it plays in your life. Think about how you would conceptualize and categorize reading’s impact on you. I value honesty over flattery. If reading is not your thing, say it. If you love it, then let me know. I don’t care so much which side you take. More important than what you choose is the truth of your reflection. I want to read about why you feel the way that you do. I want to get to know you as a reader.

Why it is important -- This is the first step in me getting to know you as a reader. What’s more important than that?

Text 2 -- [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini (an AMAZING read -- you will love it!)

Assignment --

- ☐ **Read and annotate** to help you create notes and prepare for class discussion. Use the big ideas listed below and this [rubric](#) to guide your annotations.

- ☐ Create at least **4 pages of StudyTee style notes about your book**. How you organize those four pages is up to you. I know that this is vague and undefined but look at it another way. I am empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is create four interesting pages of notes about your reading experience. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome! (One side of the paper counts as one page. I recommend taking notes on one side of a piece of paper only to prevent your pen/marker from bleeding through the page; you will want to be able to read, add to, and refer back to these notes when studying for the exam in the spring.)
- ☐ However, for those of you who would like a little direction when creating your notes, it may help to keep in mind the following AP Lit **Big Ideas: Character, Setting, Structure, Narration, and Figurative Language, and controlling idea or Theme**. These big ideas could serve as broad categories for your notes or just help guide your reading. Notes pages should include quoted (and cited) passages and/or quoted keywords and phrases. You should also notice connections to other texts, the world, and events throughout the text itself. What patterns or shifts do you notice? You may also choose to focus on how and why any of the following literary elements were used in the story: character foils, allusions, symbols/motifs/recurring details, imagery, foreshadowing, narrator's tone, diction/syntax, etc. Consider how these literary elements create meaning in the broader categories. Notes should include color and images to enhance meaning. Be creative!

Why it is important -- A mature thinker chooses and develops his or her own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. I respect your ability to make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, and personal experiences and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed my expectations. You will be discussing and writing an essay on *The Kite Runner* in the first weeks of school. *There is no doubt this will be one of your favorite books!*

Text 3: [Choice Novel of Literary Merit](#) -- all great choices!

- ☐ Choose one of these amazing contemporary novels to read. Make sure your choice is based on interest, not the number of pages. Once you've decided, complete the Google form [HERE](#) as soon as you can but **by July 15th**.
- ☐ Spend a little bit of time researching the author of your chosen novel and check out the interviews and notes about what the author has to say about his/her novel. Most authors will have their own websites. Really get to understand the context in which the novel was written and why. This will give you a deeper understanding and appreciation for the work as a whole.
- ☐ Novels were carefully chosen with the following in mind:
 - ☐ Works of literary merit (many are winners/finalists for prestigious literary awards)
 - ☐ Relevant themes and insightful exploration into the nature of humanity
 - ☐ Potential novels for Q3 open essay question on the AP Literature exam
 - ☐ Content Warning. Many of these texts contain graphic scenes of violence (sexual and/or physical); please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Read the summaries closely.
- ☐ Annotations are not required but recommended. I really want you to enjoy this book without being slowed down by marking the text. However, please use some sticky notes to highlight key moments/passages that reveal themes, symbols, and/or motifs -- or even to just pose a question or make a connection. Focus on what jumps out at you or touches your heart. These notes will help you answer the required questions and share your reading experience with the class.

- ☐ After reading the novel in its entirety, answer the **questions**. Each response should be a solid, well-written paragraph. While it is not required to cite from the text in your response, you may if you feel it would add development to your insights.
- ☐ Prepare to share your insights and review of the novel with the class.

*****Start reading *The Kite Runner* and your choice novel as soon as possible so you don't have to rush. You will want to enjoy each one!***

Part 3: Sharing

Assignment -- Write a Letter to Me

- ☐ Read [this letter](#) from me to you then write a letter to me that you will hand in on the first day of school. The directions for this letter are in my letter.

Why it is important - Getting to know one another is the most important step in building a strong and vibrant community of readers, writers, and thinkers.

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at skuper@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us and I'll be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer, and I'll see you on the first day of your SENIOR year!

All the best!
Mrs. Kuper

Summer tasks include:

- Get a notebook (5 points)
- Watch StudyTee Notes
- Watch Leo Babauta's "Why I Read"
- Write one page of notes about your relationship with reading (10 points)
- Read and annotate *The Kite Runner* (50 points)
- Write at least four pages of notes on *The Kite Runner* (40 points)
- Complete Google Form by 9/1 indicating choice novel you read (5 points)
- Read choice novel
- Answer the questions for the choice novel (50 points)
- Write a letter to me (20 points)

Total Points = 180

