

**2020-2021 AP Literature & Composition**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
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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. I will collect all work on the first day of class.

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

- ☐ Join the AP Lit Summer Reading Google Classroom: **CODE nnge52g**

**Part 1: The Kite Runner (100 points)**

- ☐ Read [\*The Kite Runner\*](#) by Khaled Hosseini (an amazing read -- you will love it!)
- ☐ **Annotate** (50 points) while reading to help you create notes and prepare for class discussion. Use the big ideas listed below and this [rubric](#) to guide your annotations.
- ☐ Get a single-subject notebook with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). You will use this notebook all year to create notes for the major works that we study, so find one that you really like and will hold up. Or use any 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper with three holes or that can be hole-punched for a three-ring binder. I will probably use loose-leaf or computer paper myself.
- ☐ After watching the [How to take efficient and neat notes](#) and [How I take notes \(neat and effective\)](#) by studytee, create **five pages** (50 points) of Studytee style notes (**handwritten**) for *The Kite Runner*; 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.
- ☐ When creating your notes, keep in mind the following big ideas: **Character**, **Setting**, **Structure**, **Narration**, and **Figurative Language**, and don’t forget all roads lead to a **controlling idea or Theme**. These big ideas should serve as broad categories for your notes. All 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. 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.

- ☐ Prepare to discuss and write an essay on *The Kite Runner* in the first weeks of school. There is no doubt this will be one of your favorite books!

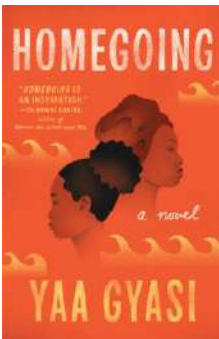
## Part 2: Choice Novel of Literary Merit (50 points) -- all great choices!

- ☐ Choose one of the following six 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](#).
- ☐ Novels were carefully chosen with the following in mind:
  - ☐ Works of literary merit (all winner/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. The text contains graphic scenes of violence (sexual and/or physical).
- ☐ Annotations are not required. I really want you to enjoy this book without being slowed down by marking. However, you may want to use some sticky notes to highlight key moments/passages that reveal themes, symbols, and/or motifs. These notes will not be checked by me but will help you create the one-pager assignment below and share your reading experience with the class.
- ☐ Create a [one-pager](#) that captures your deep thinking about the text.
- ☐ Prepare to book talk your book, share your insights and review of the novel, and one-pager with the class.

\*[Homegoing](#) - Yaa Gyasi

Click [here](#) for press on the novel.

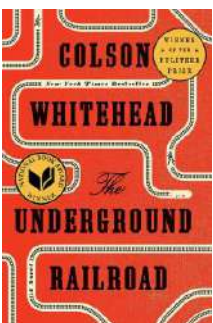
Click [here](#) for author info.



\*[The Underground Railroad](#) - Colson Whitehead Click [here](#) for press on the novel.

Click [here](#) for author info.

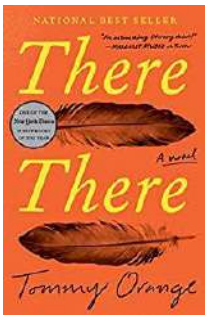
\*[The Nickel Boys](#) - Colson Whitehead Click [here](#) for press on the novel.



\*[There, There](#) - Tommy Orange

Click [here](#) for press on the novel.

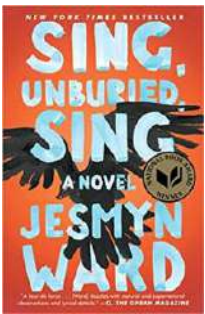
Click [here](#) for author info.



\*[Sing, Unburied, Sing](#) - Jesmyn Ward

Click [here](#) for press on the novel.

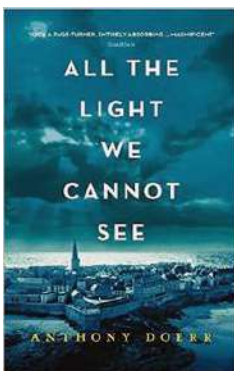
Click [here](#) for author info.



[All the Light We Cannot See](#) -- Anthony Doerr

Click [here](#) for press on this novel.

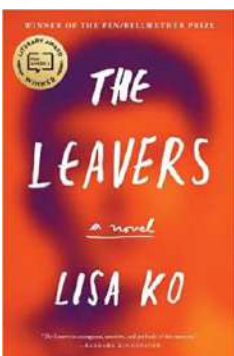
Click [here](#) for author info.



[The Leavers](#) -- Lisa Ko

Click [here](#) for press on the novel.

Click [here](#) for author info.



**\*\*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: Write a Letter to Me (50 points)**

- ☐ 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.

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at [skuper@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us](mailto: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