

AP Literature Independent Novel Project—Summer Reading, Due the First Week of School, 2016-17

Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Independent Novel Project is designed to encourage reading, specifically books which possess what the College Board calls “literary merit,” while allowing your student to choose the reading they will complete within the set guidelines. Students will be able to choose books interesting to them and allow their creativity and unique vision of the reading to shine through.

This is not a small undertaking, and is not the kind of project that can be completed the night before it is due. I will need your assistance to make sure that your student works throughout the time they have been provided in order to ensure their success. Also, please be aware that the recommended reading list is very broad, containing traditional classics alongside more modern works, and there may be books within this list you may find objectionable. Please work with your student to select novels within the guidelines that you find appropriate.

The work required for this project must be typed, and computers are available at your local public library. The requirements for the project are attached to this letter for you to read through. Some of the important details are listed below:

- The books chosen must be listed on the AP recommended reading list found on your student’s school or teacher’s website.
- Plagiarism or cheating in any way will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of -0- for the entire project.
- Extra Credit will be awarded for creative use of technology in the project and/or presentation.
- The project will be due THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, 2016.
- Students will submit their work via their school Google Drive account in Google Classroom, established by the teacher the first week of school.

Please feel free to contact me at the school by phone or email me at rstokes@greenville.k12.sc.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student or this project.

Sincerely,
Rachel Stokes

INSTRUCTIONS

- The books you choose **MUST** be listed on the recommended reading list posted on the school homepage, Ms. Stokes’s website, or Ms. Brown’s website.
- Plagiarism or cheating in any way will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of -0- for the entire project.
- Extra Credit will be awarded for creative use of technology in the project and/or presentation.
- All work will be submitted via **Google Classroom, established the first week of school by your teacher. If at any time, you are confused about how to turn your work in via Google classroom, do not hesitate to go see Mrs. Allen in the media center. She is happy to help you do this! Please DO NOT share your assignment with me via Google Drive. It must be turned in via Google Classroom.**

Your project must be typed in 12 point font, with 1 inch margins, double spaced and **note page numbers where information can be found in the text using correct MLA parenthetical citation.** Each page should be consecutively numbered using correct MLA pagination. Please create a cover page for your project listing your name, the author and title of the book you have chosen, and a Table of Contents (label each assignment with the corresponding page number listed). **You will complete ONE of the assignments LISTED IN EACH ROW below.**

Row 1: Knowledge	Authors do not choose a title randomly—usually there is some significance to it. Identify and describe the meaning of your book’s title in 100-150 words.	Describe the genre and setting (time and place) of your book in 100-150 words. Explain its importance to the narrative.	Create a PLOT DIAGRAM for your book. Identify all the key parts. Have 10 pieces of rising action, and 4 pieces of falling action.
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Row 2: Comprehension	Write a SUMMARY of your book in 300-500 words. Make sure to focus on the key events of the story.	Explain the MAIN CONFLICT in the book. Give examples of how this conflict shows up in the story and how it is resolved. 300-500 words.	Copy 10 of your favorite phrases/sentences from the book and explain the significance of each quote in 300-500 words total.
Row 3: Application (no choice)	***CREATIVE PROJECT*** Do something creative to show your understanding of your book. You could make a movie poster, do a music video, write an alternate ending, do a “graphic novel” depiction of a scene, create a soundtrack for your character with explanation of why each song is appropriate to the text, write original poems or songs for your character, etc. You MUST get your idea approved by ME. The creative project needs to show off your skills and display a depth of understanding about the book/character/theme, etc. You must also create a 300-500 word explanation of what you created, why you created it, and how it is appropriate to your novel selection.		
Row 4: Analysis	Write an analysis of the main character. Describe him/her and his/her transformation. Then, explain WHY they transformed over the course of the book. 300-500 words.	Relate the book to human experience. In 300-500 words explain three truths about human nature and find three events from the text that relate to those truths.	Choose another book or movie with a similar conflict, and in 300-500 words, compare/contrast the book to your new choice. Analyze characters, plot, setting, etc.
Row 5: Synthesis	Make up a TOTAL of TWENTY QUESTIONS for your novel—five true/false questions, five multiple choice, five matching, and <u>five open-ended questions</u> for your book. Create an answer key on a separate piece of paper, including answers for the open-ended questions in the proper format.	Choose a controversial issue from the text and take a stand on ONE SIDE of the issue. Write a 300-500 word paper discussing your reasons for disagreeing or agreeing with a decision a character made in the novel regarding this issue.	Title two columns with opposite words (hate/love, peace/violence, power/submission, honesty/deceit, etc). Now list 5 elements from the novel (characters’ actions/ words, plot development, symbols, etc.) that fit each of the descriptive words. Write a 300-500 word paper explaining your lists.
Row 6: Evaluation (no choice)	Find and include 2 professional, published reviews of the book with MLA documentation of where they were located. In 300-500 words write your own review of the book. Would you recommend the book? Why or why not? Would you have changed any element of the story (plot, characters, setting, resolution, conflicts, point of view, etc)?		

Resources Online:

Time 100 Greatest Novels list for reviews: http://www.time.com/time/2005/100books/the_complete_list.html

New York Times Sunday Book Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/review/index.html>

New York Review of Books: <http://www.nybooks.com>

London Review of Books: <http://www.lrb.co.uk/>

Los Angeles Times Book Reviews: <http://www.latimes.com/features/books/>

Guardian Book Reviews: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/books+tone/reviews>

Reviews of Books.com for links to published book reviews: <http://www.reviewsofbooks.com/>

Easybib.com to help you with your review citations: <http://www.easybib.com>

Open Office.org provides a free suite of programs for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases, etc: <http://www.openoffice.org>