

AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment 2017

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The purpose of AP Literature and Composition is to engage you in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, you deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for readers. As you read, consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. The committee for AP Literature and Composition believes heartily in Henry David Thoreau's famous quote, "Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all." When it speaks of the "best books," it means the classics. Beyond the list I give you here that is mandatory, spend your time this summer reading (or perhaps rereading) the classics. I have listed many of the most popular on the back of this paper. It is critical that you know as many classics and modern classics as possible. You must prove yourself to be a well-read person on the AP Exam.

A student presenting a score of 3 or higher on the AP English Literature and Composition Exam might expect to receive credit for both the composition and the literature courses.

Assignment:

1) Read and annotate the two books. When I say, "annotate," I do not mean to annotate heavily. We will be looking for different things in AP Literature. Instead, make notes in the margins so that when you return to school to talk about the book, you can do so in a cohesive way, using annotations as a way to digest the book and remember its key points.

Read the following fiction books:

- *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte
- *Dreams of Joy*, Lee

(While short sections may be offensive to us as Christians, they are part of classical literature and are far less offensive than what will be covered in a college class.)

If you have forgotten the symbols to help you, they are as follows:

T = Theme – the main idea of the novel

FL = Figurative Language (similes, metaphors, imagery, personification)

F = Foreshadowing – a "hint" of what is to come

V = Unfamiliar Vocabulary; (**write a synonym above unfamiliar word**)

CH = Characterization (direct or indirect)

S = Setting – time or geographical

C = Conflict (man vs. man, nature, or self)

M = Mood (positive/negative/bright/foreboding)

? = I don't understand this

* = I want to remember this and be able to find it quickly

2) Write your college essay

Write your college essay. The common prompts are listed below.

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

3) If you have time for more reading, the following list contains the most frequently cited works from 1970-2014 on the AP Literature and Composition Exam:

- 26 *Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison
- 20 *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- 18 *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens
- 17 *King Lear*, by William Shakespeare
- 16 *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoevski
- 16 *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad
- 16 *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte
- 15 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- 15 *Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville
- 14 *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce
- 13 *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 13 *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zorah Neale Hurston
- 12 *The Awakening*, by Kate Chopin
- 12 *Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller
- 12 *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 11 *Billy Budd*, by Herman Melville
- 11 *Ceremony*, by Leslie Marmon Silko
- 11 *Light in August*, by William Faulkner
- 10 *Antigone*, by Sophocles
- 10 *As I Lay Dying*, by William Faulkner
- 10 *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
- 10 *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
- 10 *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams
- 10 *Native Son*, by Richard Wright
- 10 *Othello*, by William Shakespeare
- 10 *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison
- 10 *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams
- 9 *Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller
- 9 *A Passage to India*, by E. M. Forster
- 9 *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry
- 8 *All the Pretty Horses*, by Cormac McCarthy
- 8 *Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy
- 8 *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya
- 8 *Candide*, by Voltaire
- 8 *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller
- 8 *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck
- 8 *Jude the Obscure*, by Thomas Hardy
- 8 *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair
- 8 *Portrait of a Lady*, by Henry James
- 8 *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, by Tom Stoppard
- 8 *Sula*, by Toni Morrison
- 8 *Waiting for Godot*, by Samuel Beckett
- 7 *All the King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren
- 7 *Cry, The Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton
- 7 *Ethan Frome*, by Edith Wharton
- 7 *Lord Jim*, by Joseph Conrad
- 7 *Madame Bovary*, by Gustave Flaubert
- 7 *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, by Thomas Hardy
- 7 *Oedipus Rex*, by Sophocles
- 7 *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen
- 7 *The Sound and the Fury*, by William Faulkner
- 7 *The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway
- 7 *The Tempest*, by William Shakespeare
- 7 *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, by Thomas Hardy
- 7 *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe
- 6 *Age of Innocence*, by Edith Wharton
- 6 *A Doll's House*, by Henrik Ibsen
- 6 *An Enemy of the People*, by Henrik Ibsen
- 6 *Equus*, by Peter Shaffer
- 6 *Gulliver's Travels*, by Jonathan Swift
- 6 *Hedda Gabler*, by Henrik Ibsen
- 6 *Major Barbara*, by George Bernard Shaw
- 6 *Medea*, by Euripides
- 6 *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
- 6 *Moll Flanders*, by Daniel Defoe
- 6 *Mrs. Dalloway*, by Virginia Woolf
- 6 *Murder in the Cathedral*, by T. S. Eliot
- 6 *Obasan*, by Joy Kogawa
- 6 *The Piano Lesson*, by August Wilson
- 6 *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- 6 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, by Edward Albee
- 5 *Bleak House*, by Charles Dickens
- 5 *The Cherry Orchard*, by Anton Chekhov
- 5 *Doctor Faustus*, by Christopher Marlowe
- 5 *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley
- 5 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, by James Baldwin
- 5 *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare
- 5 *Macbeth*, by William Shakespeare
- 5 *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, by George Bernard Shaw
- 5 *Sister Carrie*, by Theodore Dreiser
- 5 *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens
- 5 *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
- 5 *Wise Blood*, by Flannery O'Connor

4) Summary:

- Read 2 books and annotate
- Write your college essay
- Read more books on the list if you have time
- Clean your room

Books we plan to cover next year that you will have to acquire are as follows:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Foster
- *Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens, ISBN:13: 978-1-59308-055-6 (this one has pertinent notes)
- *Wuthering Heights*, Bronte
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Hurston

Have a wonderful summer!