

AP English 12

Recommended Summer Reading

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! We are thrilled that you have chosen to take this course and challenge yourself to grow and build upon the foundations you've created as readers, writers, and thinkers.

While there are no *required* assignments for you to do over the summer, we do *recommend* that you keep your mind fresh and possibly work ahead so that you're ready to work when we return to school in August.

Here is what we recommend - Part One - Novel (choose one or both!)

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Here is what we recommend - Part Two - Short Stories

1. Read each short story that we've provided in PDF format in the attached folder:
 - “Guests of the Nation” by Frank O'Connor - Characterization/Conflict
 - “The Birth-Mark” by Nathaniel Hawthorne - Symbol
 - “Girl” by Jamaica Kincaid - Point of View
 - “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver - Symbol/Tone
 - “A Hunger Artist” by Franz Kafka - Theme
 - “To Build a Fire” by Jack London - Setting
 - “Araby” by James Joyce - Setting - Setting
 - “A Clean, Well-lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway - Tone/Style
 - “The Open Boat” by Stephen Crane - Theme
 - “A and P” by John Updike - Characterization/Conflict
2. For each story, consider the answers to the questions provided. The questions are meant to challenge you to think beyond *what* is going on in a piece of literature and consider *why* those stylistic and literary attributes are developed.
3. We have provided a particular focus for each short story, but certainly more than one category of questions may be applicable.
4. You may write the answers down, discuss them with a family member or chat with a classmate about what you think.

Questions you may have:

1. Do I have to read the stories and answer the questions?

No, the assignments are just recommended.

2. Will this assignment be collected?

No, so feel free to do as much or as little as you see fit. However, this may turn into one of your first assignments after school begins, so keep that in mind.

3. Will we be reading these stories in class?

Some, if not all of them.

4. Why might it be important for me to complete the assignment, even though it's optional?

We will definitely be having an assessment the first few weeks of class that mimics these types of questions. Any practice you can get will enable you to take an active part in class discussions and give you an advantage right from the start.

5. What if I have questions over the summer?

Feel free to email! Though you probably won't know your teacher yet, you can reach out to either:

- i. Mrs. Bieber: sbieber@basdschools.org
- ii. Mr. Ammary: nammary@basdschools.org

We hope that you enjoy your summer, and that hopefully, you enjoy these stories! We look forward to meeting you all at Liberty next year!