

AP English 12 (Summer '17)
Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to **AP English Literature and Composition**. In order to begin preparing for the AP test next spring, you will need to complete the following coursework by the dates listed below.

In essence, you will read **two novels** by their assigned due dates and post an analytical comment to the course blog found at the AP English Literature Google Classroom. To add yourself to the Google Classroom, please join by using the following course code: **3ap5wua**. Details are provided below.

Due Dates:

The Stranger by Albert Camus

—responses due **online by July 15**

Independent Novel Choice (see addendum A for a list of eligible titles)

—responses due **online by August 15**

Novel Assignment:

1. Closely read each assigned book: The selections for this assignment are the beginnings of the literary storehouse you'll need to pull from when you take the AP exam in the spring. Therefore, closely reading each selection is an important first step.

Take notes: These selections are not the kind to take to the beach. They are challenging works of fiction that require an appropriately structured environment within which to work. You must force yourself to be an **active** reader of these novels. So as you read, take notes regarding **character/character development, conflict, theme, stylistic elements—diction, tone, figurative language, etc.—, and form/structure**.

When you're finished, you should have two sets of notes, one for each novel. I recommend organizing several pages in a notebook or journal for each selection. Use these pages to collect your thoughts in an easy-to-read format that includes page numbers for the direct and indirect quotes, paraphrases, and/or summaries that you use to make assertions regarding the bold faced categories listed above.

These notes are for both you and for me, **so package them neatly**. You will use them as an invaluable record for the Open Ended Question on the AP Test. I will use them to provide proof that you have carefully and closely read each work.

2. Post a response to the class blog: Write a brief response as soon as possible after you finish each book. Question prompts will be updated to the well before the due dates listed above. Then, react to at least one of your classmates' posts in an academic and insightful way.

Consider these responses to be informal yet academic first-person reactions to specific elements of the novels. Regardless of how informal they may become in tone, do not sacrifice content and precision. **All responses must include quotes and correct citations as support for your subjective assertions.**

3. Prepare and 'polish' your notes: In addition to the blog entries, your notes will be due the first day of class—remember that they are ultimately for both you and for me.

Format and present them accordingly. Please expect to use the either of the two selections to compose several formal, in-class responses during the first few weeks of school.

Words of Wisdom: Do yourself a favor and **actually read the books!** Stay away from Sparknotes, Shmoop, Book Rags or any other online, literary resource for the simple reason that they prevent you from developing competency in AP specific skills. You will be taking the AP test with nothing more than a pencil and your wits; plan on participating in the course under the same conditions. In addition, English teachers have computers, too, and using these sources is a form of cheating.

Addendum A

AP Book List for Independent Reading:

The following ten books are among the most common titles found in the third Free Response Question of the exam. The number after each title is the number of times that each has been on the exam since 1970.

Billy Budd by Herman Melville (12)

Herman Melville's novel tells the story of Billy Budd as he enrolls on a warship in 1797 during the Napoleonic wars. It bounces somewhere between innocence and manipulation, emotion and doing one's duty.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky (16)

This novel tells the story of Rodia Raskolnikov, who murders an innocent woman and is left to ruminate on the nature of right and wrong, the value of human life, and the importance of love.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (19)

Dickens tells the story of an orphan boy named Pip and his journey to find happiness and success despite a number of harsh and unforgiving landscapes.

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad (27)

This frame narrative follows the adventures of a man named Marlow along the Congo River as he seeks out a famed ivory trader named Kurtz. It delves deeply into the inherent evilness in mankind.

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce (14)

Portrait of the Artist is a coming of age novel that tells the story of Stephen Dedalus as he struggles to find himself in an oppressive Irish-Catholic world. It is an exceptional example of autobiographical stream of consciousness writing.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (27)

This novel is the most often selection to appear on the AP exam. It is an intense and inspiring book about an unnamed black man's attempt to discover himself despite a majority-white society's attempt to dictate just that.

Have a wonderful summer!

---Mrs. Miranda