

2016-17 Summer Reading AP Literature

Welcome to Ms. Rabun's AP Lit group for the upcoming school year. Your summer reading is an important part of the course that will help you grow as a reader, thinker, and writer. Nothing that you can do to prepare for the 2017 A.P. English Examination will be as valuable as reading. Therefore, do not waste time, money, or energy looking for short cuts. Discussion is a crucial part of this class, so be ready to respond to and discuss your summer reading when you report to school in the fall.

The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam consists of approximately 55 multiple-choice questions to be answered in one hour and three essay questions (Poetry, Prose, and Open-Ended) to be written in two hours. The Poetry and Prose essays will ask you to respond in specific ways to a poem or prose selection while the Open-Ended essay question allows you to choose a novel or play of **significant literary merit** to respond to the prompt. Your summer assignments are the first steps to a success on the AP Lit test.

SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

****You must have a paper copy of each— not an electronic version.**

- (1) *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. ISBN 0-679-73276-4.
This novel is an intense and sometimes confusing blend of styles from one of the twentieth century's most celebrated writers. The chapters are like separate episodes in this coming-of-age novel, but this is also a novel that defies such clean labels. This should be the novel you begin first, partly because of its length.
- (2) *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. ISBN 0-140-48134-6.
Any edition of the play is acceptable. This play is a modern masterpiece that examines the genre of tragedy through the life of the common man.
- (3) *Native Guard* by Natasha Trethewey. Houghton Mifflin. 2006. ISBN 978-0-618-87265-7.
This poetry collection won Trethewey the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2007. Trethewey is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was named the Poet Laureate of the United States in 2012.

ANNOTATE AS YOU READ

*****You should annotate the entire text of *Invisible Man*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Native Guard* so that you capture your impressions and easily refer to passages that were memorable during class discussions.** This is more than highlighting passages, although that is also helpful. Please read Dr. Adler's essay in this packet and consider using any and all of the techniques suggested by Dr. Adler. React and respond to the texts by analyzing what you read by writing/markings in the margins of the book—you might question, compare, evaluate, predict, review, remind, and paraphrase or summarize. Mark passages and quotations that reveal each work's themes, characters, and style (unique use of language). This knowledge will be of great help to you when you are completing one of the initial class assignments, especially the initial timed-writes. Look for patterns of images, subjects, and themes.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

- (1) Reflective assignment: Write a two-page essay (not 1 ½ pages) that serves to defend either of the 3 summer reading selections as a contemporary classic, a text with "literary merit." In your response, you must cite text evidence AND include a claim about the meaning of the work as a whole. Please refer to the 2nd page for a description of what makes a book a "classic" work of literature. (Due first day of school – 50 points).
- (2) Group Analysis assignments (completed during first week of school):
Assigned groups will complete Data Sheets--one for each summer reading selection. (50 points)
- (3) Content-related assignment: During the first week of school, you will complete content-specific analysis tasks. These will be assigned during the first week of class. (100 points)

ALL reading should be completed prior to the first day of school or the first day that you are present at school.

*If you know that you are taking a long trip near the end of July, then be sure that you complete the work earlier in the summer.

Please bring your annotated copy of all 3 texts to school with you on the first day of classes.

I know that you all have many activities to enjoy this summer, but please pace yourself when it comes to summer reading. Make a plan and hold yourself accountable so that you are able to manage the work. Do not take shortcuts like taking your information from SparkNotes or Wikipedia. What matters most are **your** ideas.

Please be aware that all students will write an in-class essay during the first two weeks of school where you will have the experience of writing about your summer reading selection in an AP style prompt. If you have questions about the summer assignment, the course, or the reading selections, please feel free to come by room 2407 before the end of teacher work days on May 25.

If you have any questions over the summer, please e-mail me at rabun.kristin@mail.fcboe.org
I look forward to learning with you next year. Happy Reading!

Mrs. Rabun

What is a Classic?

“A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.”

~ Italo Calvino

Does your summer reading book deserve the designation of modern classic? Address the question thoroughly, using the language below as guide. You should incorporate these terms into your essays as appropriate. Your essay will be assessed for its quality of organization, ideas, mechanics, analysis and development, and diction/word choice.

- ❑ Multiple levels of meaning
- ❑ Effective, unique style appropriate to purpose and content (Examples: use of specific kinds, varieties, and frequency of syntax, diction, tone, point of view, voice, figurative language, symbol, organization, structure, parallelism, repetition, allegory, fantasy, allusion, and/or myth)
- ❑ Memorable, dynamic, indirect characterization
- ❑ Strong irony, paradox, and/or ambiguity
- ❑ Truth of experience, life, significance, humanity, compassion, justice, integrity, relationships, loyalty, faith, conflict, or self-discovery
- ❑ Universality of significance to all humanity of all cultures, times, places—not directed at one audience
- ❑ Inexhaustibility
 - one reading rarely reveals all
 - revisiting the work yields new insights
 - details of technique provide surprises and comprehension on levels other than plot
- ❑ Participation in the great dialogue of the centuries
- ❑ Time-tested (least important characteristic) Usually 50 year value or likely to be still read and valued in 50 years.