

# AP Literature and Composition

2020-2021

## Summer Reading Assignment

*“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”*

— [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)

**Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!** No one has time for reading unless he or she makes time for it. Set aside time this summer for the required reading assignments. Be curious about what these selections have to offer you. You will need to purchase these books so that you can annotate them as any active reader should do.

**Close reading** is critical to your success in AP Lit. The exam at the end of the course consists of a multiple-choice test and three essay questions (poetry, prose, and open-ended). The Open-Ended question allows you to choose a work of significant literary merit to answer the question. All three choices are works of literary merit and as such, you may be able to use them on your AP Exam next May. We will definitely begin our year in August by discussing them and writing about them. You will be required to bring your copy of the books to class. It will be in your best interest to read them over the summer because you’ll have more reading to do when school starts. Don’t look for short-cuts!

### **This summer you will read**

1. *The Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy, a Southern drama about the destructive repercussions of keeping a family secret. Annotate your thoughts as you read.
2. *Native Guard* by Natasha Trethewey – This 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry brings together two legacies of the Deep South. Please annotate your thoughts as you read.

If you are unsure about annotating a book, please read the article by Mortimer J. Adler called “How to Mark a Book.” An internet search of the author’s name and the article title will direct you to the Web site [www.maebrussell.com](http://www.maebrussell.com) and the article.

### **As you read**

- Pay attention to plot, characters, setting, and the meaning of the work as a whole. Interact with the books by underlining, highlighting, making notes in the margins, making notes on sticky notes.
- Also, notice words you don’t know. If you can figure them out using context clues, great, but, if not, look them up!

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the books. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Mrs. Claxton and Mrs. Lightle