

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

Summer Reading 2011-2012

Next spring, most students enrolled in 12 AP English will choose to take the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition exam; therefore, it is imperative that students read and thoroughly understand a broad range of literature. In order to promote students' literary awareness and prepare them for the rigors of the coming year, four texts have been chosen as summer reading options. In addition to reading, students will compose an essay to be submitted on the first day of school and later to turnitin.com.

Summer Reading Options

Please choose *two* novels from the list below and conduct thorough, thoughtful readings of each.

- *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus III
 - ISBN 10: 0307385906
 - ISBN 13: 978-0307385901
- *What is the What* by Dave Eggers
 - ISBN 10: 0307385906
 - ISBN 13: 978-0307385901
- *Waiting* by Ha Jin
 - ISBN 10: 0375706410
 - ISBN 13: 978-0375706417
- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
 - ISBN 10: 0743262174
 - ISBN 13: 978-0743262170
- *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok
 - ISBN 10: 1400031044
 - ISBN 13: 978-1400031047

Managers of the local Barnes and Noble (North Plainfield), and Borders (Aurora) bookstores will be notified so they know there will be a demand for these novels this summer; however, all titles can be acquired online for less than they will cost in brick and mortar stores.

Annotation and Developing an Interpretation

Annotating extends beyond mere underlining and highlighting and requires you to interact with and engage the text. Jot down thoughts in the margins, ask questions, and generally make notes as you read. Read critically, emphasizing analytical thought, awareness of literary elements, and anything else that aids in developing your understanding of the text. Meaningful annotations create a bank of information from which you can draw when writing and they are essential to preparing for class discussions that will occur throughout the year. Have an aversion to writing in your books? Post-It notes and tape flags are your friends.

Essay Requirements

- Essays, regardless of style, are analytical in nature.
- Essays must incorporate ample evidence from *both* texts in the form of substantive balance of direct quotations and paraphrases.
- Essays must avoid pure plot summary in all cases.
- Essays are to be at least 4 full pages in length and should not exceed 6 full pages.

- Essays are to be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, in correct MLA format with Works Cited page.
- Essays will be submitted to turnitin.com once school begins.

Essay Prompts

Write your essay based on *one* of the following prompts:

1. Compare and contrast how authors utilize literary techniques to portray social or psychological problems. Examples of literary techniques might include, *but are not limited to* diction, metaphors, symbols, leitmotifs, and allegory. Essays should address at least three literary techniques in addition to incorporating and thoroughly analyzing at least three significant direct quotations from each novel. **Note:** Do not analyze rhetorical devices.
2. Thoroughly examine how the novels you selected influenced your understanding and awareness of complex social, ethical or philosophical conflicts. In doing so, you must address specific events from each text that have contributed to your emerging awareness and understanding. Essays should incorporate and successfully analyze at least three significant direct quotations from each novel that exemplify the writer's understanding.
3. Write a short story that creates a meeting between the protagonists from your novels in which they discuss significant events in their lives that explain each character's view of self, relationships with others, and perceptions of society. Further develop your story by exploring new developments in characters' motives and personalities, along with any potential commonalities and conflicts which may exist or emerge. Short stories should incorporate and thoroughly communicate the significance of at least three significant direct quotations from each novel. Avoid plot summary.

Note: AP Literature is a world unto itself. While there is *some* crossover of terminology from AP Language, the overlap is, at best, minimal. Hence, your essays must be steeped in literary analysis. If you find yourself conducting a rhetorical analysis, you're headed in the wrong direction.

Recommended Reading

Incoming English 12AP students are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to read Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. Foster provides students with a simple roadmap for understanding and analyzing literature. While this is not *required* reading, doing so will further enable readers to derive more meaning from literature than most cursory readings allow.

Questions and Contact Information

Feel free to contact Harley Brook (hbrook@psd202.org) if you have any questions or concerns about the summer reading criteria. This information is also available on the English Department's web page. (<http://psd202.org/pnhs/English/englishindex.htm>)