

AP Summer Reading 2017-2018

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. We will have a very busy senior year, and it will begin this summer. You are receiving an information packet concerning the summer reading choices and assignments. A total of four works will be read and several chapters of a very insightful “how to read” literature reference work.

Works

A Lesson Before Dying
Things Fall Apart
The Kite Runner

Ernest Gaines
Chinua Achebe
Khaled Hosseini

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Jonathan Safran Foer

or

The Road

Cormac McCarthy

Three written assignments are due during the summer (yes, I did say summer). These assignments are to be mailed (snail mail, hand delivered to office, or sent as an email attachment). If mailing, use the York Catholic address c/o Mrs. Terri Eline. Be careful to plan ahead for travel/vacation times. The instructions for the summer work are attached to this packet.

One assignment (the fourth) is due the first full day of school- August 28, 2017.

See the last page for writing reminders.

******* SPECIAL NOTE**

While only four written assignments will be mailed or given to me, you are expected to complete notes and an initial, mid-point, and final reaction for EACH WORK READ!

Keep in mind WHY you are reading. You are not reading for the instructor. You are reading for YOU. AP is different than other levels of English. You will only get out of it what you put into it. Much work and thought is independent. Few if any quizzes, projects, little “home works” that frequently in the past composed a significant part of your grade will be offered. Assignments are short and long essays. All of which constitute major grades. By definition, AP is equivalent to a college freshmen lit and comp course. You will read the novels or not; you will provide strong carefully edited essays or not. You will succeed when you do, but the onus is on you.

What Every Work We Read Entails (not just summer works)

Take note of the following:

1. Author/date published
2. Narration style(pov/identify narrator)
3. Setting: note shifts in setting/where/when actions take place; whether or not this affects the characters or plot
4. Any time considerations (Civil War, revolution, pre-women's rights)
5. Character (not just a list, but characteristics of the characters and characterization techniques of the author)
6. Theme(s) and major ideas presented
7. Overall summary of the plot
8. Note similarities between the novel and any other novel/work by the same author or that proposes a similar idea
9. AN INITIAL, MIDDLE AND CONCLUSIVE REACTION

AP Summer Reading Requirements 2017-2018

Because summer reading is an integral part of the AP course (and the summer can slip by so quickly), there will be three written assignments completed and turned in over the summer (by mail). The fourth assignment will be collected the first Friday of the school year. Each assignment is not to exceed 1- 1 ½ typed, MLA style pages. It goes without saying that any assignment indicating the use of Spark notes or any other online summary site will receive a 0.

1. An initial response to the first chapter of one novel (June 26)
2. A mid-point response to another novel (July 24)
3. Application of two chapter ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* handout to one novel (August 18)
4. An overall response to *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* OR *The Road* (bring to class first day of school).

For the “mail-in assignments,” responses are not to be completed on the same novel. For example, if you choose to read *Things Fall Apart* first, then your first “mail in paper” will be an initial response to the opening chapter. If your second reading is *A Lesson Before Dying* then your mid-point in the novel response will concern *A Lesson Before Dying*.

Your last mail-in assignment is applying two of the ideas presented in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to your third novel/play, *The Kite Runner*.

It does not matter what order you choose to read your books but timing is critical. Again, I remind you that you will actually write three reactions for each work (four works x 3 = 12) but only three will be mailed to me.

Special Note: If you email your work as an attachment, I will not comment or correct it. You will have to print a copy and show it to me when school starts. I will grade what I see on the screen. If you want comments, have a hard copy mailed or delivered to me. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope, and I will return your first reaction.

Your job is to be aware of your summer plans. The dates above are “no later than” dates. If you are traveling or committed to a sports camp, those dates must be considered in your time management schedule. Perhaps, you might see that you will be away July 24, so it is your responsibility to turn in (mail) the assignment beforehand. You may choose to read all of the works by July and complete the written responses as well.

Included with this packet are forms for each assignment, samples, ideas for the focus of each assignment, and the mailing address. The form is to be included with each assignment.

Mailing Address

Mrs. Terri Eline
York Catholic High School
601 E. Springettsbury Ave.
York, PA 17403
teline@yorkcatholic.org

AP Summer Reading

Reaction #1: attach this sheet as the cover for the response

Due: June 26

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____

The initial reaction paper is one of first impressions of the work. First person (I) is acceptable. Limit your reaction to the opening chapter or even paragraphs, comment on the style, introduction of a character, type of narration, points of enjoyment, confusion, or comparison. This must be a focused piece of writing.

There are always questions posed by a good, active reader at the beginning of a work. Sometimes we have little or no idea where the story will go, other times we think we could make an accurate prediction of the story line.

How a “story” is being presented is another area for comment. The narrative style (first person - minor or major character), third person limited, third person omniscient). If a narrative is first person, the events will be told at a “slant.” How accurately we think the tale has been revealed to us is cause for thought.

In an “initial reaction” piece, you may wish to pose several questions. These questions are unanswerable at this point, but as a reader we should always be wondering or guessing at potential outcomes.

Another area for reaction is to the characters themselves. Initial likes and dislikes are usually formed very quickly. Why do you like/admire/dislike initially about the character?

Comparison is yet another idea for initial reaction. Perhaps the opening pages remind you of another novel or perhaps the character reminds you of another in literature or even your own life for that matter. As freshmen you may have read *Great Expectations* by Dickens and you note an immediate comparison of writing style.

Remember, even though this is a personal, literary reaction, it must include some textual references.

AP Summer Reading

Due: July 24

Reaction #2 (mid-point reaction)

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____

The mid-point reaction is always comparative. Even though you did not write a formal initial reaction to this work, you always should be reading by comparison to your first reactions to character, narrative style, effects of setting, ideas presented. By mid-point in any work, we have basis for comparison to initial reaction. Do we still like/dislike/admire/despise one of the characters? Has the focus of the novel shifted? Are we still meeting new characters? Has what seemed like an inconsequential earlier event or meeting suddenly taken on more importance? Do the chapters all seem to begin the same way? These are only ideas.

Remember, to be credible you should have specific references to text.

AP Summer Reading

Due: August 18

Reaction #3 (*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* application)

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____

For this assignment, you are to take two concepts presented in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and apply them to your novel. Perhaps you read about how time and again authors use “seasons” or “weather” to subtly emphasize a major idea in the novel or the concept of “the quest.” You will apply the concept presented and prove how it is true for your novel. Identify the chapter titles from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* in your introduction.

AP Final Written Analysis

Last Written Assignment #4: Overall reaction to *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* OR *The Road*.

Due Monday, August 28, 2017

MLA format/typed.

The style and content of each of these books makes it one worth reading. For your fourth reaction, due on the first Monday (in this case Monday, August 28) of school, focus on why this work should be read. What did you learn, what appealed to you about its style, its content, its time period? Whatever you do, do not make this some generic, summary pasted from Amazon or Spark onto a page of paper. Choose the most striking lines, the most vivid scenes, the most interesting characters and expound. You will obviously introduce the work with a brief overview, then discuss the focal point of your critique.

Do not exceed 1- 1 ½ pages.

Writing Reminders

1. While your reactions are personal, they are professionally and literarily personal. You may certainly dislike characters, writing style, time period, but you are to explain why in literary terms. This is no place for whining.
2. Each entry must have a specific focus. **You job is not to retell the plot.** Your focus can be setting, a particular character's personality and how it affects his or her actions, cultural clashes. If you are confused, note the confusion and what causes it. You may also think in comparison to other works read with similar themes or characters.
3. Remember, you do not judge the time or culture. You may note you are relieved to not live in that time period or suffer its restriction but be very careful on this point. Your job is one of an observer. You may note the harsh restrictions of the time or place, but not comment that they are "stupid."
4. Be careful not to be sloppy. Clear purpose, strong sentences and word choice, clean mechanics are expected.
5. IF you would like a critique of your first reaction, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your reaction. It may be beneficial to see what errors you may be making and have the chance to not make the same mistakes on the subsequent reactions.