

Incoming Senior Advanced Placement Summer Reading Requirements 2018

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. We will have a very busy year and it will begin in earnest this summer. This packet will provide you with everything you need to complete your summer reading assignments, including due dates and how to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I advise you to purchase the paper texts so that you can annotate right in the margins of the books; however, if you are in need, I have copies of the texts that can be loaned to you for the summer. *Oedipus Rex* will be provided for you, as I prefer a specific translation.

Works:

<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe	
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Charles Dickens	(This is an anomaly for Dickens... in case you are dreading it based on past experience.)
<i>The Road</i>	Cormac McCarthy	
<i>Oedipus Rex</i>	Sophocles	

**Three written assignments are due over the summer. The fourth essay is due on August 24, 2018. Directions follow.

**As a side note, the rest of the senior class is reading Mitch Albom's *Tuesday's With Morrie*, a truly remarkable text to read. Consider putting it on your list of books to read in the near future...after your AP work is complete, of course!

*****SPECIAL NOTE

While only four written assignments are given to me for grading purposes, you are expected to complete notes and an initial, mid-point, and final reaction for each work we read! These will be collected and a completion grade given upon your return to school in August.

Keep in mind why you are reading. You are not reading to produce a paper for your instructor. You are reading for you. AP is much different from any other level 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, or little homework grades will be offered. Assignments are short and long essays, all of which will constitute major grades. By definition, AP is equivalent to a college freshman literature and composition course. You will read the novels or not; you will provide strongly edited essays or not; you will succeed when you do, but the onus is on you.

Summer Reading Requirements

Because summer reading is an integral part of the AP course, and 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 on August 24. Each assignment is not to exceed 1-1½ 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 the first novel you read. (June 27)
2. A mid-point response to a second novel. (July 20)
3. Application of two chapter ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* handout to a third novel. (August 15)
4. An overall response to a fourth novel. (August 24)

For the summer mail in assignments, each response is to be completed on a **different** novel. By the end of the summer, I will receive one essay on each of the four novels assigned.

Please keep in mind that you are to be completing **three** reactions for each work you read. By the end of the summer, you will have **12** reactions, eight of which you will bring to class on **August 30**.

It does not matter in what order you read the texts, but please remember to pace yourself. You do not want to write an overall response (due August 24) if you cracked open the text on August 22.

Be aware of your summer plans. The above due dates are “no later than” dates. If you want to complete all of your work before August 10 to allow yourself a few weeks of freedom before school starts, that is fine. If you know you are going to be away over one of the due dates, please make sure you think ahead to mail it early. (For those of you not familiar with snail mail, it does take a few days to get from your home to YC☺)

Special Note: If you email your work as an email attachment, I will not comment or correct it. I will simply provide you with a grade. If you want comments, have a hard copy mailed or deliver it by hand to the office. If you include a self-addressed stamped envelope, I will return your graded essay to you via snail mail as well.

On the following pages, there are directions regarding the content of each summer essay as well as cover pages to mail with each assignment.

Mailing Address:

Mrs. Jill Euclide
York Catholic High School
601 East Springettsbury Avenue
York, PA 17403

Contact Information:

jeuclide@yorkcatholic.org

During the summer, I usually check my email every other day, if not daily. It may be 1-2 days before you hear back from me. I am also going on vacation, and will not answer emails during that time. If I do not get back to you immediately, don't panic! I promise I will return your email as soon as I can.

AP Summer Reading
Reaction #1
Due: June 27

The initial reaction paper is one of the first impressions of the work. 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, third person limited, third person omniscient; major or minor character) will completely affect what a reader “sees” and understands. If the narrative is told in the first person, the events will be told at a “slant,” and bias will exist. How accurately we think the tale is revealed to us is cause for thought.

In an “initial reaction” piece, you may wish to pose several questions. These are unanswerable at this point, but as readers, 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. What do you like/dislike, admire etc. initially about the character?

Comparison is yet another idea for initial reaction. Perhaps the opening pages remind you of another novel; perhaps the character reminds you of another in literature or even your own life for that matter. As Freshmen, many of you 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.

Reaction #2
Due July 20

The midpoint reaction is always comparative. Even though you did not turn in an 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 the 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 suddenly taken on more importance? Do the chapters all seem to begin the same way?

These are only ideas...you may launch into whatever literary direction that seems feasible given the text. Please remember that you must include some textual references.

Reaction #3
Due: August 15

For this assignment, you are to take two concepts presented in the chapters of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and apply them to your third novel. Perhaps you read about how time and time again

authors use seasons and weather to subtly emphasize a major idea in the novel or about the concept of the quest. You will apply the concepts 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.

Reaction #4

Due: August 24

**Regardless of the format in which you turned in your summer work, this essay must be typed and printed for me on or before August 24.

The style and content of each of these books makes them worth reading. For your fourth reaction, focus on why this work should be read. What did you learn? What appealed to you about its style, its time period? Whatever you do, do not make this something generic that could be posted on Amazon or Spark. Choose the most striking lines, the most vivid scenes, the most interesting characters...and then expound. You will obviously introduce the work with a brief overview and 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 paper must have a specific purpose. Your 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, or 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 not to judge a particular time or culture. You may note that you are relieved to not live at that specific period of time or suffer its restrictions, but be very careful on this point. Your job is that of observer. You may not agree with the harsh restrictions of the time or place, but do not comment that they are "stupid" or discuss Christian Catholic theology. It is not the place.
4. Be careful not to be sloppy. Clear purpose, strong sentences, and word choice, as well as clean mechanics are expected. (If you are interested in a basic revision checklist, please see me.)
5. Despite the title of personal reaction, be careful when using first person. Sometimes that leads to sloppy writing. It goes without saying that second person is out of the question!
6. Please also scan for contractions. Our writing at this level should be without them.

Your cover sheets follow on the next page. You may simply cut the page apart and then attach the appropriate piece to your individual essay.

AP Summer Reaction #1
Due June 27

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____

AP Summer Reaction #2
Due July 20

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____

AP Summer Reaction #3
Due August 15

Name: _____

Work: _____

Author: _____

Focus: _____