

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading

Students in AP English Literature will read **one** novel or **two** plays from the list below. Make sure to choose something you have not read before; after all, we are trying to expand your literature toolbox. All of these books and plays are fantastic and will be particularly useful in addressing a wide variety of open questions. If there is a novel you would like to read that is not included in my list, please run it by me for approval.

Your assignment is simple. Many AP Literature prompts ask you to identify a meaning of the work as a whole. Good news: there is not ONE right answer. Your task is to compose a brief essay (±one page, handwritten, single-spaced) in which you identify what you think is the meaning of that work as a whole, justifying your claim with evidence from the text. Compose your essay as three+ paragraphs: first, establish a line of reasoning and present a thesis (your meaning of the work as a whole); then, defend your claim with evidence from the text (one or more paragraphs); last, conclude your essay by connecting the novel's or play's meaning to a greater universal truth about the world or humanity. We will complete the handwritten essay in class the first week we return. Happy reading!

Novels (read one)

All the King's Men, Robert Penn Warren
All the Pretty Horses, Cormac McCarthy
As I Lay Dying, William Faulkner
Black Boy, Richard Wright
Catch-22, Joseph Heller
The Color Purple, Alice Walker
Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoevsky
Going After Cacciato, Tim O'Brien
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë
Jude the Obscure, Thomas Hardy
Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides
Moby Dick, Herman Melville
Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf
Native Son, Richard Wright
One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
Portrait of a Lady, Henry James
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Stranger, Albert Camus
Sula, Toni Morrison
Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë

Plays (read two)

Anything from Shakespeare (other than *Othello*)
I recommend *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *The Tempest*
Candide, Voltaire
Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller
Doctor Faustus, Christopher Marlowe
A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen
A Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams
A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry
A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams
Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett

If you have any questions this summer, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email dbooth@clarksvilleacademy.com I will be very happy to address any concerns you have. Some of the selections in the lists are accessible online for free. I am a big fan of having a copy in hand for annotation and reference, but you may use whatever format you prefer. Enjoy!

—DB