

Clarksville Academy
AP Literature and Composition ~ Summer Reading 2023

Welcome to AP Lit! In preparation for our upcoming year, all AP Literature students will be required to complete the following summer reading assignments:

Assignment 1:

Carefully read the directions on how to annotate a text by reading the attached “Annotating a Literary Text” document.

Assignment 2:

Read the assigned book and ANNOTATE the novel like a professional! In other words, you will need to purchase a physical copy of the text and include in your annotations various elements of importance AND how the author uses those elements to develop or emphasize larger ideas.

Assigned novel: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.

You will be asked to hand in your novel at the start of the school year and we will be evaluating the quality of your annotations in your novel. Be prepared to write an in-class literary analysis essay within the first couple of days of school.

Assignment 3:

Approaching literature is no different from approaching any other form of art. .You don't begin by asking, “What does it mean?”. You begin by simply noticing what is there and what isn't. If we can remember that literature is art and approach it as such, we'll see nuances and delights that we might have normally skipped right over. Observe and analyze Edward Hopper's painting “Nighthawks”. **Write a 1 page analysis of the photo, essentially performing a close-reading of the painting.** What do you see in Hopper's painting? What is the feeling that it generates inside you? What elements in the painting (or what assumptions outside of it) make you feel that?

Annotating a LITERARY Text

AP English Literature and Composition has a different focus than AP English Language. In Lit, instead of focusing on rhetorical analysis that identifies the rhetorical devices that an author uses to produce an effect on the reader, students focus on literary analysis and the author's use of literary devices to convey a theme.

Annotating involves interacting with the text and making meaning of what you are reading rather than simply reading for plot. Every so often, stop and record OBSERVATIONS about different elements that you see in your summer novel such as quests, acts of communion, archetypes, symbols, allusions, and themes of the novel. Don't simply note the existence of these elements; write a few sentences to elaborate on your observations and connect those observations to the points that the author is making about humanity and life, including points about psychological, historical, political, and/or social issues. If you are writing these observations on a separate piece of paper, provide specific examples and quotes (always follow a quote with the page number) to support them.

At this point, you have already had a discussion about the novel (in the margins of the text or on paper) and you are that much closer to understanding the BIGGER ISSUES in the text.

Reminders

1. Underline important information, significant passages, **and** take notes on this information! **Never just underline or highlight something without including a written note** that explains the reason for its significance.
2. **Questions are part of your notes!** Write them down as you read; they may be answered as you continue to read, but if they aren't you can ask them during class discussions.
3. Reread sections that you do not understand and look up unfamiliar words.

Whenever you annotate, you should consider the following elements:

- **Characters/ Characterization:** As you read, make note of characters and analyze the author's characterization
(Indirect/ direct characterization; flat vs. round characters; static vs. dynamic characters; archetypes) – protagonist and antagonist and the names of other significant characters and try to analyze how the author creates his/her character
- **Narrative Voice:** Identify the POV (narrative voice) and shifts in POV. Note first person, third person omniscient, third person limited, alternating person, stream of consciousness, epistolary, reliable vs. unreliable
- **Setting:** Identify the setting, note changes in setting, and consider the importance of the setting to plot and development of ideas.
- Identify **juxtapositions:** any noted differences between two subjects, places, persons, things, styles, or ideas
- The author's use of **figurative language:** metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, imagery.
- The author's use of **allusions:** common cultural references, often historical, biblical, or mythological (for example, spring as a season of rebirth or representing youth, a journey as a quest, etc.)
- The author's **diction choices** and **tone** (attitude toward his/her subject).
- **Irony:** a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant (verbal), what should happen and what does happen
(situational), or between what the characters understand and what the readers understand (dramatic)
- All of the above should amount to theme and provide an understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole!

Annotating a text is a necessary skill for this course and will help you glean the most meaning from a text!