



AP English Literature Summer Reading and Assignments

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is a fun, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info. **All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the first day of school.**

The BASICS of your Summer Work...

- Read *Fahrenheit 451* and Create a **50 Important Things** collage of prominent quotes, images, symbols and themes from the book
- Respond to Essay Prompt #1 – Choose a quote and react to it before or after you finish *Fahrenheit 451*
- Find a poem that can pair with *Fahrenheit 451* and explain the connection in response to Essay Prompt #2
- Read a second book of literary merit from the list provided OR get another book pre-approved by Mrs. Dehn – write your response to Essay Prompt #3 explaining why your book is considered to have “literary merit”
- Turn in your essays in a Google doc on Google Classroom on or before the first day of class.
- Bring your annotated copy of *Fahrenheit 451* to the first day of class so I can check your annotations.

The DETAILS of your Summer Work...

Part 1: Read *Fahrenheit 451* and Create a 50 Important Things collage

Assignment #1: 50 Important Things Collage

Read *Fahrenheit 451* thoroughly. As you are reading, look for important themes, images, quotes and words that seem important to the text. You will need a variety of these to fill a 8.5 x 11 sheet of computer paper. Make sure to include the title of the book and author in the middle of the page. Please make your collage colorful and fill the entire page. This will be due on the very first day of class. An example from the novel *Beloved* is below.



Assignment #2: Written Response (Essay #1)

Below are required assignments which will be submitted via Google classroom during the first week of class or they can be submitted over the summer.

Following are three thought provoking quotes. Select one and write a thoughtful reaction to it. You may choose to write this reaction either before or after you read **Fahrenheit 451**. However, reading **Fahrenheit 451** first may influence your response...

- Humans are naturally destructive and prone to self-deception.
- Books are important repositories of human experience and wisdom; they must be guarded carefully.
- Pleasure is not the same thing as happiness.

You will need to write 1 typed essay for *Fahrenheit 451* for Essay #1. Please limit your response to no more than one page. Use MLA style and be concise (see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resources/572/01>).

Assignment #3: Poetry Pairing (Essay #2)

You will need to find 1 poem to pair with *Fahrenheit 451* according to what you think the theme of the novel is or some other similarity. Use the topic and theme finder on Poets.org (<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poems>) to help. After finding your poem, copy and paste it into a document. Write one paragraph that explains why you chose the poem and how it relates to the novel. Use specific quotes from the poem as well as examples from the novel. Please limit your response to no more than one page. Use MLA style and be concise (see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resources/572/01>).

Part 2: Additional Choice Reading

Finally, select one more title to read over the summer from the list provided. The titles on the list are considered modern novels or plays of “literary merit” by those who write the AP Lit exam, but they never define what “literary merit” means. While you are reading your chosen book, think about why the AP test writers think that your book has literary merit.

Assignment #4: Literary Merit Essay (Essay #3)

When you are finished reading your choice book, **write a 250+ word reflection explaining what that phrase (literary merit) means to you**, and why this novel or play has literary merit. Please do not re-read something and explain your thinking in detail using support from the text.

Please limit your response to no more than one page. Use MLA style and be concise (see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resources/572/01>).

****Academic Honesty is required** in my class. Turning in someone else’s work (from a classmate or the internet) as your own will result in a zero for an assignment. The point of an AP course is to challenge yourself. If you don’t do your own work and learn from process, it will be impossible to pass the AP Literature and Composition exam this May. If you need to ask questions of a classmate or Google a summary of a work to help you understand that is fine, but please **make sure all responses are your own**. All work will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarized assignments will receive an automatic zero and will be referred to administration for action.**

Email me with any questions you may have at joanna.dehn@fwisd.org.

Have a great summer! Happy reading!

Mrs. Dehn

Additional Novel Book Lists

Title	Author	Genre	Date
<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>	Rudolfo Anaya	novel	1972
<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Sandra Cisneros	novel	1984
<i>"Master Harold" . . . and the boys</i>	Athol Fugard	play	1982
<i>M. Butterfly</i>	David Henry Hwang	play	1988
<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i>	John Irving	novel	1989
<i>The Woman Warrior</i>	Maxine Hong Kingston	memoir	1976
<i>Obasan</i>	Joy Kogawa	novel	1981
<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison	novel	1987
<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	Toni Morrison	novel	1970
<i>Song of Solomon</i>	Toni Morrison	novel	1977
<i>Sula</i>	Toni Morrison	novel	1973
<i>Jasmine</i>	Bharati Mukherjee	novel	1989
<i>The Women of Brewster Place</i>	Gloria Naylor	novel	1982
<i>Going After Cacciato</i>	Tim O'Brien	novel	1978
<i>Equus</i>	Peter Shaffer	play	1973
<i>Ceremony</i>	Leslie Marmon Silko	novel	1977
<i>Sophie's Choice</i>	William Styron	novel	1979
<i>The Color Purple</i>	Alice Walker	novel	1982
<i>Fences</i>	August Wilson	play	1983
<i>The Piano Lesson</i>	August Wilson	play	1987

Title	Author	Genre	Date
<i>Reservation Blues</i>	Sherman Alexie	novel	1995
<i>The Blind Assassin</i>	Margaret Atwood	novel	2000
<i>Oryx and Crake</i>	Margaret Atwood	novel	2003
<i>The Memory Keeper's Daughter</i>	Kim Edwards	novel	2005
<i>Cold Mountain</i>	Charles Frazier	novel	1997
<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i>	David Guterson	novel	1994
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini	novel	2003
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Khaled Hosseini	novel	2007
<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro	novel	2005
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	Barbara Kingsolver	novel	1998
<i>The Namesake</i>	Jumpa Lahiri	novel	2004
<i>All the Pretty Horses</i>	Cormac McCarthy	novel	1992
<i>Atonement</i>	Ian McEwan	novel	2001
<i>Native Speaker</i>	Chang Rae-Lee	novel	1995
<i>The God of Small Things</i>	Arundhati Roy	novel	1997
<i>A Thousand Acres</i>	Jane Smiley	novel	1991
<i>The Bonesetter's Daughter</i>	Amy Tan	novel	2001
<i>The Story of Edgar Sawtelle</i>	David Wroblewski	novel	2008

*Please note that some novels may contain content that some might consider offensive. If you choose a novel that you find offensive, feel free to discontinue the reading of that book and chose another.