

AP Literature and Composition

2020-2021

Summer Reading Assignment

Part One: Novels

1. Choose *one text* from the following list:

- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse
- *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Going After Cacciato* by Tim O'Brien

2. Choose *one text* from the following list:

- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

Part II - Poetry

Choose **10 Poems** from the list of poets below. Consider choosing selections from a few different poets so you become exposed to a variety of styles and subject matter.

- Walt Whitman
- Emily Dickinson
- Robert Frost
- Langston Hughes
- Elizabeth Bishop
- John Donne
- Shakespeare (Sonnets)
- William Butler Yeats
- Sylvia Plath
- W.H. Auden
- William Carlos Williams
- Edgar Allan Poe

Summer Reading

Assignment Directions

Part One - Novels: You are to complete the following task for **each of the selected novels**. This assignment should reflect clear understanding of the novels, depth of thought/analysis and critical thinking.

The goal of this task is to create detailed notes/analysis of each novel that will be used later in the course as a review for the exam.

Task: Create a document that follows the format below and includes the information/sections stated:

1. **List of essential characters** with brief descriptions
2. **Notes on setting(s)** and its impact on the novel
3. **Analysis of narrative style/point of view** - Provide quotations that relate to the narration and analyze its impact on the novel.
4. **List of symbols/motifs and allusions*** - Provide possible examples and analysis of how they connect to the overall meaning of the text.
5. **Examination of use of tone/diction** - provide excerpts of the novel as evidence
6. **Analysis of a dominant theme/message for the novel** - Provide quotations of significant scenes that connect to the theme.

Part II - Poetry: You are to complete the following analysis for **each of the 10 poems chosen**. You should include a copy of the poem with your analysis. Your analysis of each poem must include the following:

- **Form and style** - this may include structure, tone, diction, syntax** etc....
- **Imagery and Figurative Language**
- **Perspective/Point of View**
- **Storytelling**

Note: The ultimate goal is to analyze how the poet is using these various techniques to address their theme/message - *How is each technique contributing to the overall meaning?*

***Motif** - A recurring or dominant idea/image in a work of art/literature.

***Allusion** - A reference to religion, mythology, literature, history, popular culture etc..

****Syntax** - The arrangement of words and phrases