

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SUMMER READING

Greetings and welcome to AP 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 Canvas on the first day of school. I may not ask for a submission right away, but in case I do, you should be ready!

Assignment 1: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)

Much of our studies will revolve around poetry. We will study poetry in full units and also on a weekly basis. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of “great poetry.” Select a poem that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP Literature. Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a “great” poem. I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no “wrong answer!”

Assignment 2: Choice Read of Literary Merit (Written Reflection Required)

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP Literature exam. Select a title to read over the summer. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with “literary merit,” although they never define that label. Choose a novel or play to read this summer that, in your opinion, has literary merit. Then, upon completion, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what that phrase means to you, and why this novel or play has literary merit. You may choose a title off of the list of suggested titles (on the back) or you may choose another title you believe qualifies as a work of literary merit. Some titles are very long, but others are quite short, so there is no reason not to complete this assignment! Please do not re-read something or choose something below your reading level.

Assignment 3: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

In preparation for our first week of written analysis, you need to read Anthony Doerr’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel *All the Light We Cannot See*. Pay attention to images of light, darkness, and confinement as you read. Your first timed write will be over this novel. Overall, you are required to read two books and one poem this summer in preparation for AP Literature. I urge you to read texts that are challenging, diverse, and different from what you normally read.