

AP English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition!

What is AP English? Advanced Placement is a national program that prepares students for college and gives them the opportunity to complete college coursework and earn credit for college while still in high school. Many students earn college credit, or are placed in higher level courses as a result of taking AP English. Because you can potentially receive college credit, AP courses are designed to be challenging and have very high expectations.

What should I expect? Students in AP Literature and Composition read a lot. The focus of this course is strictly literature and writing about literature. If reading isn't a habit of yours, you might consider a different senior English course. During the year we will read approximately 10 novels, as well as study poetry and essays. Typically you can expect between 25 and 40 pages of reading per night. AP English is an elective, and if you choose this course, I consider it a commitment to the work that will be required. Despite the work, the class is fun and rewarding.

What is the summer reading assignment? AP students should be well read, and exposed to all types of literature. The summer reading exposes you to several novels that we will refer to during the year, and is also the first opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to this course. You should read with care and enjoyment. If you fail to complete this assignment, you will be transferred to a different class.

Read the novels listed and follow the directions for notecards on the back of this page. It will be your responsibility to get copies of these texts--they can be checked out at any area library or purchased at a reasonable price at any bookstore or online bookseller. You might also be able to borrow them from previous AP students.

Read 1984 by George Orwell and choose one book from each of the following lists:

List 1:
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Native Son by Richard Wright

List 2:
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Dracula by Braham Stoker

(Don't substitute movies for novels, as this is usually apparent in your essay!)

In addition to the three novels, you will also do some work with Mythology. Previous students have noted that it would be beneficial to have some working knowledge of Greek/Roman mythology to better understand allusions in the texts that we read. **Please see the attached handout on Mythology to complete your summer reading.**

What to expect at the start of the school year:

Note cards (7) and Mythology charts are due on Tuesday, August 20, 2003.

Timed Writing Assignment: Wednesday, August 21, 2003.

You will be given two sample AP Examination questions based on your summer reading selections. These questions will test both your close reading skills and your ability to write about important literature. This assignment will be your first composition grade in AP English. It will be part of your grade for the first marking period.

Presentations on Greek Gods: Friday, August 23, 2003.

Details will be provided when you return in August.

Directions for Note Cards

For each of the three texts, fill out a **4x6** note card with the following written neatly and legibly in ink:

Side One:

Your Name
Author (Last name, First name)
Title (Remember to underline)
Date started reading
Date finished reading

In three or four carefully constructed sentences, indicate the theme or author's message/purpose of the novel. Include your personal reaction to the book.

Side Two:

Quote: Copy a short quotation which left an impression on you from the book. Put quotation marks around the quotation and give the page number where you found it. Write a brief explanation of why you chose that quote.

Who's Who on Mount Olympus

Research the following gods/goddesses, and use your findings to complete this chart.
There are many websites that would be helpful in finding this information; here are just a few:

<http://infotoronto.com/mythnet/mythnet/html/>

www.mythman.com

www.greekmythology.com

Greek Name	Roman Name	Realm (i.e. god of war, etc.)	An interesting fact/story about this deity
Zeus			
Hera			
Apollo			
Ares			
Athena			
Hades			
Aphrodite			
Poseidon			
Demeter			
Artemis			
Dionysus			
Hermes			

In addition to being familiar with the Olympians, you will also want know about these famous mythological beings:

	List A	List B	List C
<i>Gods</i>	The Fates Helios Sisyphus	The Muses Eros Circe	The Furies Hecuba Atlas
<i>Important Humans</i>	Jason Paris Theseus Pandora	Argonauts Helen Hercules Charon	Odysseus Achilles Ajax Medea
<i>Monsters</i>	Sirens Minotaur	Harpies Cerberus	Calypso Medusa
<i>Places</i>	Olympus	Delphi	Styx

If your last name begins A-H, you will need to identify the beings in List A

If your last name begins I-M, you will need to identify the beings in List B

If your last name begins N-Z, you will need to identify the beings in List C

List each group on a separate notecard (gods, humans, monsters, places) and a sentence or two identifying each being.