

AP Lit SUMMER WORK

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I want your summer work to be meaningful and reasonable, so you can enjoy your time off and relax. I want you to read texts that you find interesting and to give you an opportunity to experiment with writing and finding your voice. SO...

I have tried to make your summer reading and writing enjoyable to keep your skills fresh and your mind active, and also to ease your load in the fall.

Part I: Reading

Here is a list of contemporary novels for AP Literature that we will not read in class this year. Highlight books that you've already read. As a class this summer, we will read *The Nickel Boys*. After you read your book this summer, please tell me what you read and what you thought about it in your introduction letter (see part 2)...

Books Titles:

- 800 BC – The Iliad - Homer
- 800 BC – The Odyssey – Homer
- 1759 – Candide – Voltaire
- 1811 – Sense and Sensibility – Jane Austen
- 1813 – Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
- 1823 – Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
- 1838 – Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
- 1847 – Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë
- 1847 – Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë
- 1850 – The Scarlet Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 1861 – Silas Marner – George Eliot
- 1869 – Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
- 1884 – Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
- 1897 – Dracula – Bram Stoker 1891 – The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde
- 1899 – The Awakening – Kate Chopin

1902 – Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
1903 – The Call of the Wild – Jack London
1911 – Ethan Frome – Edith Wharton
1915 – The Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka
1925 – The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
1925 – Mrs. Dalloway – Virginia Woolf
1932 – Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
1937 – Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston
1937 – Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
1939 – The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck
1940 – The Power and the Glory – Graham Greene
1945 – Animal Farm – George Orwell
1949 – Nineteen Eighty-Four – George Orwell
1951 – The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
1952 – Invisible Man - Ralph Ellison
1952 – East of Eden – John Steinbeck
1953 – Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury
1954 – Lord of the Flies – William Golding
1958 – Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe
1959 – A Separate Peace – John Knowles
1960 – To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
1967 – The Chosen – Chaim Potok
1969 – I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou (non-fiction)
1969 – Slaughterhouse-Five – Kurt Vonnegut
1970 – Grendel – John Gardner
1976 – A River Runs Through It – Norman Maclean
1977 – Song of Solomon – Toni Morrison
1984 – The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros
1985 – The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
1987 – Beloved – Toni Morrison
1989 – A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving
1990 – The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien
1992 – The Secret History – Donna Tartt
1994 – In the Lake of the Woods – Tim O'Brien
1996 – Into the Wild – John Krakauer (non-fiction)
1996 – Push – Sapphire
1997 – Cold Mountain – Charles Frazier
1997 – The Red Tent – Anita Diamant
1997 – Memoirs of a Geisha – Arthur Golden
1998 – The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver
1998 – The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
2001 – Atonement – Ian McEwan
2003 – The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini
2001 – Life of Pi – Yann Martel

2002 – The Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri
2005 – The Memory Keeper’s Daughter – Kim Edwards
2005 – The Glass Castle – Jeannette Wells (non-fiction)
2005 – Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close – Jonathan Safran Foer
2006 – The Road – Cormac McCarthy
2008 – Serena – Ron Rash
2008 – Little Bee – Chris Cleave
2010 – The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot (non-fiction)
2010 – Room – Emma Donoghue
2012 – Salvage the Bones – Jesmyn Ward
2013 – The Goldfinch – Donna Tartt
2014 – Americanah – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2014 – All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr
2014 – A Man Called Ove – Fredrik Backman
2015 – Go Set a Watchman – Harper Lee
2015 – The Nightingale – Kristin Hannah
2017 – Sing, Unburied, Sing – Jesmyn Ward
2017 – Born a Crime – Trevor Noah (non-fiction)
2018 – Where the Crawdads Sing – Delia Owens
2019 – Little Fires Everywhere – Celeste Ng

Suggested Plays:

Antigone – Sophocles
Any Shakespearean play
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams
The Crucible – Arthur Miller
Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
A Doll’s House – Henrik Ibsen
An Enemy of the People – Henrik Ibsen
The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
Our Town – Thornton Wilder
Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett

Part II: Write a Letter to Me

Write a letter to me that you deliver to me your first week of school. The directions are in my letter. Contact me for the letter.

Part III: Summer Journal

Reading and writing are rooted in experience. Having a broad range of experiences is important to understand the ideas that we will explore in the works we read. In addition, we will spend a lot of time in class finding your writing voice. Finding your voice takes time.

You are at a pivotal time in your life and taking time to record it will be a gift to your future self. While many people journal online, I encourage you to buy a notebook of some type, get out and

explore, either by yourself or with family and friends and write about it. Do not try to be too serious or academic. Be funny. Be vulnerable. Be real.

Potential Activities to Write About (just ideas, get creative!)

1. Attend a summer festival: *Upstate Shakespeare Festival The 28th Annual Upstate Shakespeare Festival features LOVES LABOUR'S LOST premiering on May 23 until June 16th 2024. HENRY IV (Parts 1 & 2) will open on July 5th and run through July 28th 2024. The festival is free and is held at the Falls Park Amphitheater in Greenville.*
2. Go to a museum or a historical attraction
3. Spend a day without electronics (I would love everyone to try this)
4. Go for a hike
5. Spend an afternoon looking at street art
6. Go tent camping
7. Attend the theater (not the movie theater) to see a live production
8. Eat a meal from another culture
9. Work at a shelter, food pantry, Mobile Meals, or other organizations that prepare or deliver food
10. Prepare a meal for your family or friends and enjoy it with them
11. Spend an afternoon exploring a park
12. Buy some fruit at a farmer's market and go home and bake a cake or cobbler
13. Plan a trip- map out the route, find places to stay, and points of interest to visit
14. Spend an evening playing board games with your family or friends
15. Visit a cemetery and read the headstones. Consider the history of the family, community, state, and nation embodied in these headstones. Reflect on your experience. My grandmother used to take us to do "rubblings" of the headstones with paper and the crayons or the side of a pencil
16. Visit a quiet spot at the beach, by a stream, or a lake. Spend an hour in thought and record your thoughts
17. Do something you don't normally do. The point is to try new things in order to experience the world through a different lens

Part IV: Poetry Analysis

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 would consider worthy of study and instruction in AP Literature. Share the poem with me in your letter and tell me why you like it.

I would like for you to browse various poetry Podcasts. Select three episodes to listen to for inspiration. Select episodes from different Podcasts. Here are a few to choose from:

Poetry Unbound

The Slowdown

The New Yorker Poetry

Poetry Now

Write a reflection and consider...What did you like about the Podcast? What did you not like?
What surprised you? What could inspire your own Podcast?
Which poems did you choose? What did you like about them?

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at kjohnson@fbns.org, or 864-597-9803. I will be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer and I will see you on the first day of your SENIOR year! 😊

Ms. J