

# AP English Literature and Composition Fall/Spring 2021-22

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## **Summer Reading Assignments\*can be turned in on HUB-August**

The focus of our AP Literature class this year will be the analysis of nonfiction writing in the form of poems, short stories, novels, and plays. Our job will be to figure out **What** an author is doing and **How** he or she is doing it. We will consider everything we read in terms of the **What (Theme and Tone)** and the **How** (the Big Five Literary Elements: PIDDS--Point-of-View, Imagery, Details, Diction, and Syntax, as well as other devices like allusion, juxtaposition, parallelism, and extended metaphors).

My advice is to complete the tasks in the order they are listed here.

1. **Ongoing task**: Begin exploring and figuring out AP Classroom and the various skills and objectives for the AP Lang Course and Exam. Learn as much as you can without yet being officially enrolled in AP English Language and Composition, which will happen sometime in mid-August. <https://ap.collegeboard.org/?navId=gf-ap>
2. Our official textbook will be the Norton Reader-Fiction/Poetry/Drama volume. **Click or copy/paste this link**, which contains free access to some of the texts in the book: <https://digital.wnorton.com/lit13hs>  
Bookmark it as well for easy access both this summer and during the school year. We should have a class set of this full textbook fairly early in the school year. You will read a few short essays/descriptions from this textbook for your summer reading assignment. Read each section of "Narration and Point-of-View":  
<https://digital.wnorton.com/73320?demo>
  - 2a. Read Chapter 3: Narration and Point of View, pages 169-172.

2b. Read “The Mark on the Wall” (1917) by Virginia Woolf and think about the questions that follow this short story, page 187-192.

3. **Essay Question/Prompt Three** on the AP Literature Exam in early May 2021 will ask you to write about a novel or play of ‘considerable literary merit.’ You will have to do this from memory. You won’t be able to have a stack of books you have read there at your desk. Depending on what the prompt is, you MAY be able to write about one of the three plays we will read in class. However, you need to be familiar with as many great works of literature as possible in order to write a solid response to the Question Three Essay prompt.

Therefore, you will select one of the following novels/plays from the three Prompt Lists below and begin reading immediately. You can read the work in any format. Many of the novels can be bought very cheaply at Amazon or HalfPriceBooks.com. Many can also be downloaded or viewed at [librivox.org](http://librivox.org) and through the Free Books App. My suggestion is buying a copy that you can take notes in as you are reading. **Feel free to research** the titles before deciding on one!

**3a. Bring your POSTCARD about your novel/play to class!** Include these items and information: **Front side:** 1) title in a creative font/lettering, 2) author in a different but also creative font/lettering, 3) interesting fact/s about the author, 4) brief major character-setting-plot summary, 5) a quote/blurb from an expert on the novel, 6) subjects-topics-issues dealt with in the novel. **Backside:** list six people (three living and three non-living[historical or fictional]) whom you could send this postcard to and WHY they need to read this novel *or* would want to read this novel.

**3b. Your ESSAY (*without using your book!*) will be written *in class* sometime in September or October.** Here are the Prompts along with the novels and plays that correspond to each. **CHOOSE ONE PROMPT and ONE NOVEL/PLAY and Start Reading.** \*take notes in your book!

**Prompt Choice One: A symbol is an object, action or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary fiction, a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning or expand literal meaning. Select a novel and focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing HOW that**

**symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the story.**

*The Awakening*

*Crime and Punishment*

*Invisible Man*

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter*

*Nineteen Eighty-Four*

*A Prayer for Owen Meany*

*The Color Purple*

*Wise Blood*

*The Kite Runner*

*The Namesake*

*The Plague*

*Things Fall Apart*

**Prompt Choice Two: Choose a novel that depicts a conflict between a parent (or parental figure) and a son or daughter or relations within families. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain HOW the conflict contributes to the overall meaning and theme of the novel.**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Hard Times*

*Persuasion*

*Fathers and Sons*

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*Washington Square*

*The Mill on the Floss*

*Bless Me, Ultima*

*Fences*

*The Brothers Karamazov*

*A Raison in the Sun*

*All My Sons*

**Prompt Choice Three: The British novelist Fay Weldon offers this observation about happy endings:**

**“The writers, I do believe, who provoke the best and most lasting response from readers are the writers who offer a happy ending through moral development. By a happy ending, I do not mean mere fortunate events—a marriage or last minute rescue from death—but some kind of spiritual reassessment or moral reconciliation, even with the self, even at death.”**

**Choose a novel that has the kind of ending Weldon describes. In a well-written essay, identify the “spiritual reassessment or moral reconciliation” evident in the ending and explain its significance in the work as a whole.**

*The Color Purple*

*Crime and Punishment*

*The Stone Angel*

*Invisible Man*

*Jane Eyre*

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*Song of Solomon*

*Great Expectations*

*Cry, the Beloved Country*

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*Bless Me, Ultima*

**Prompt Choice Four: Read the following quote by Pauline**

**Hopkins: “And, after all, our surroundings influences our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.”**

**Choose a novel in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological and/or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay analyzing HOW these**

**surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the novel as a whole.** *The Color Purple*    *The Grapes of Wrath*

*Great Expectations*    *Invisible Man*    *My Antonia*    *Native Son*

*One Hundred Years of Solitude*    *King Lear*    *The Plague*    *Bless Me, Ultima*

*Snow Falling on Cedars*    *Blindness*    *The Handmaiden's Tale*

*The Sun Also Rises*    *The Poisonwood Bible*    *The Glass Menagerie*    *Sula*

*A Raisin in the Sun*    *Native Son*    *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

*Another Country*    *Salvage the Bones*

**4. Access the PDF for Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.**

**4a. Read the Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 25, and 27.**

**4b. Answer the questions for these chapters. Feel free to turn my Questions document into your Answers Document by typing your answers below the questions. Be sure to reword the question into your answer. \*\*Submit these to HUB if possible before school starts**