

AP English 12

Summer Reading Assignment

Part One: Read for enjoyment—REALLY! 😊

Fundamentally, we believe that reading is a pleasure. Therefore, our summer reading project is designed to allow you to read a book simply for enjoyment. We save the difficult books, the ones that benefit from being taught and discussed in a classroom setting, for the school year so we can read those books with you.

Instructions:

1. Choose one of the books from the following list.
2. Divide your book in half, either by chapters or page numbers.
3. Halfway through reading the book, type a one-page, double-spaced response to the novel. (By “response,” we mean write about your perceptions, delights, and frustrations about the book thus far).
4. At the end of the book, type another one-page, double-spaced response about the book as a whole, judging it in light of all the other books you’ve read in your life.
5. Then make sure your name is on both pages of your responses, staple the two pages together and bring them to class on the first day of school to turn in.

Format:

Responses should be written in Times New Roman, 11 point font, with 1 inch margins on each side. Handwritten responses must be written in pen and be four pages (2 for each half of the book) in order to receive full credit. Responses written in pencil will be returned and requested to be turned back in the following day—in pen. Twenty points will be deducted.

Evaluation:

Part One is a 100 point test grade. The pages must be FULL to receive full credit. Remember that your two page assignment will be our first impression of you in our classroom—so make a GOOD one. 😊

Due Date:

The Summer Reading Assignment Part One is due one week from the first day of your English class.

Questions?

If you have any questions, you can contact me at the following addresses: asilvey@madison.k12.al.us.

Be Advised:

- Please choose a book that you think you will enjoy. Don’t choose one randomly, nor choose one because of length. Some short books (100 pages) take longer to read than long works. For example, students may read a *Harry Potter* book (that’s 700 pages) in a couple of days but need two weeks to read *The Awakening*, a 1899 novella (approximately 100 pages).
- If you start a book and don’t like it, then put the book down and choose another.
- Some of the works listed on the following page have content that may be offensive to some readers. We have tried to list warnings beside each title. Please do not choose a book with a warning if you know that you would be offended by that book, or more importantly, if you know that your parents would not like you to read that book. An * means this work may have adult themes and issues.

The List:

Our list of suggested works is organized somewhat thematically. If you would like to know more about individual works, then go to Amazon.com and read the summaries. Additionally, any of these works may be used on the AP exam.

African-American Works:

**The Bluest Eye*, Morrison
**Song of Solomon*, Morrison
**Beloved*, Morrison
**A Lesson before Dying*, Gaines
**A Gathering of Old Men*, Gaines
Black Boy, Wright

Science Fiction:

**The Sparrow*, Russell

For the Future English Major:

David Copperfield, Dickens
Emma, Austen
Mansfield Park, Austen
Persuasion, Austen
Howard's End, Forster
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Joyce
Remains of the Day, Ishiguro
Middlemarch, Eliot
A Room with a View, Forster
Rebecca, Du Maurier

Some International Works:

The Plague, Camus
The Three Musketeers, Dumas
The Count of Monte Cristo, Dumas
The Alchemist, Coelho
Anna Karenina, Tolstoy
The Fountainhead, Rand
The Trial, Kafka

Dystopian / Post-apocalyptic Works:

**A Clockwork Orange*, Burgess
**The Road*, Cormac McCarthy
Brave New World, Huxley
Alas, Babylon, Frank
1984, Orwell
**The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood

Horror:

Dracula, Stoker
**Different Seasons*, King
The Turn of the Screw, James

Some American Literature:

Age of Innocence, Wharton

Catcher in the Rye, Salinger

The Sun Also Rises, Hemingway

A Farewell to Arms, Hemingway

Ragtime, Doctorow

**On the Road*, Kerouac

**The Cider House Rules*, Irving

A Prayer for Owen Meany, Irving

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Kesey

An American Tragedy, Dreiser

**The Sound and the Fury*, Faulkner

Multicultural Literature:

The Namesake, Lahiri

Reservation Blues, Alexie

The Joy Luck Club, Tan

Thanks to Davis Thompson and Karen Hall from Auburn High School for the above ideas

CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE REQUIRED READING DIRECTIONS!!!

Part 2: Read *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Foster and Apply What You've Learned

Instructions:

1. Read the book.
2. As you read, consider how the novel (from part one) relates to Foster's ideas.
3. Select any twenty (20) chapters and write a 2-4 sentence response, demonstrating how at least ONE concept from a chapter relates to a work that you've read.
 - a. At least ten (10) chapters should be from the novel you read during the summer.
 - b. The remaining ten (10) are your choice. You may continue with your book or choose any short story or novel that you've read (in school or on own).

Format:

- Responses should be written in Times New Roman, 11 point font, with 1 inch margins on each side. Handwritten responses must be written in pen. Responses written in pencil will be returned and requested to be turned back in the following day—in pen. Twenty points will be deducted.
- Be sure to write the chapter number next to your response as well as the name of the story or book that you reference.
- Below are three examples:

Ch 2: Foster claims that the essentials for a vampire story are an older figure, a young, virginal female, “a stripping away of her youth”, and her death or destruction (19). In “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” Arnold Friend is a metaphorical vampire, for he is twice the age of Connie, a teenage girl. He preys upon her, “marks” her as his, and presumably takes her life.

Ch. 21: Foster states, “In each of us...a monstrous Other exists...no matter how civilized, lurk elements that we'd really prefer not to acknowledge” (200). Throughout history and literature, even the best of men and heroes have done bad things. In *Lord of the Flies* most of the seemingly innocent young boys turn into savage monsters in just a few months without having adults to supervise them.

Ch. 10 The cliché “It was a dark and stormy night” became popular for a reason—it easily works to foreshadow dark events. Each time before Catherine and Heathcliff (from *Wuthering Heights*) have an argument, there is always a storm; also a ghost appears to Lockwood on a stormy evening. Additionally,

Frankenstein's monster is created on a stormy night, and his “birth” brings about the eventual demise of his creator.

Evaluation:

Part Two is a 100 point test grade.

Due Date:

The Summer Reading Assignment Part Two is due one week from the first day of your English class.