

SOPHOMORE AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Pre-AP SUMMER READING

The Advanced Placement Program is an academic program of college-level courses and examinations for high school students. Students enrolled in AP courses take the College Board AP exam and have an opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced standing in college based on their scores on the AP exam. All students enrolled in Pre-Advanced Placement courses are preparing to enroll in Advanced Placement courses in the future.

The curriculum of any Pre-AP course is challenging and goes into greater depth with the academic material than regular courses. Pre-AP courses require students to use analytical thinking, reading, writing, and problem solving skills. Pre-AP courses are taught using Laying the Foundations materials and teaching strategies.

Students must meet the following criteria to enroll in AP courses, and it is recommended for Pre-AP courses as well:

- The student must complete all prerequisite courses.
- The student must meet all application requirements.
- The student must have the recommendation of the subject area teacher of the course.
- The student should have an above-average GPA with "B's" or better in core academic subjects and "A/B" in the area of the AP course.
- The student should be highly motivated with good study habits and above average writing skills.
- The student must have the consent of the parent/guardian.
- The student must take the AP exam at the end of the year.

Summer reading is a way of completing part of the REQUIRED reading for English classes ahead of time. These assignments will be graded. This summer I want you to read from the following list of works. Please have them completed by the first day of school in August. Within the first three weeks of school in August, you will complete an Accelerated Reader test for each book/play. These grades will be the first grades you receive in English class, no matter which teacher you have. With that being said, you will not be able to take an AR test for a book on which you have already tested; therefore, **you must choose a book that you have not read or tested on previously**. Summer reading is just that: **SUMMER READING**. All students will be given an opportunity to take AR tests in the library during the first week of school. **It is your responsibility to avail yourself of that opportunity. No grade will be given for tests taken after the closing date.**

Sophomores should read **TWO** books.

- **All students** should read *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals. Copies are available in the CCHS Library. There will be a written test on this book the first week of school.

- All students should then read ONE of the following books:

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by E. Spear
Brian's Song by William Blinn
The Guardian by Nicholas Sparks
Izzy-Willy Nilly by Cynthia Voigt
A Day No Pigs Would Die by R. Peck
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
Black Like Me by John Griffin
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
Looking for Alaska by John Green
Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy
Legend by Marie Lu
Article 5 by Kristen Simmons
For One More Day by Mitch Albom
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
City of Ashes by Clarissa Clare
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines
The Yearling by Marjorie Rawlings
A Break with Charity by Ann Rinaldi
North of Beautiful by Justina Chen Headley
Cinder by Marissa Meyer
The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson

You may find these books at any bookstore, public library, or you may check them out from our library. Listen for announcements concerning check out times. In addition, many of these books are available online at no cost to you at googlebooks.com. E-book formats are also available free of charge from a number of providers (e. g. librivox.org, Kindle, and project Gutenberg). Finding copies for the summer is **YOUR** responsibility. When I say READ, I do mean READ. Watching the movie or reading the Sparknotes version is not satisfactory. **The tests you will take on the books are based on the books, and the movies always get something wrong.**

A WORD OF CAUTION: The books listed for summer reading are meant to give you a positive literary experience of powerful writing. The books are not all young-adult literature; some are adult novels, and many are written from a mature perspective. Some of the books on this list contain scenes of graphic violence, drug usage, sexuality, or language that some may feel is offensive. Students need to exercise good judgment in reading these books. Reading works that investigate difficult ethical choices and actions does not ever condone or celebrate the choices these characters make. English classes are designed to allow students to see how the English language is used to convey the human experience in vivid, dramatic, and unforgettable ways. If you would like help selecting books for summer reading, please ask a librarian or teacher for help or come by room 10 before school dismisses for summer.

Sincerely,

Kay Tippett
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