

A.P. Literature Course Information and Summer Reading

What is AP Literature and Composition?

AP Literature is designed to be a college-level course, rich in higher level thinking. AP English Literature and Composition will challenge, inspire, and enrich the eager literature student. Through works from several genres and modes, the course will broaden student understandings about the world around us today. Students will be challenged to analyze literature in a way that highlights authors' styles and purposes but also to form connections that show the relevance of the themes of classic literature as it applies to today's society and world. Students will experience intellectual challenges and a considerable workload that culminates with the AP English and Literature Exam in May. Most colleges and universities award course credit with a qualifying score on the exam.

Summer Reading Requirements

Students will read two novels over the summer and complete the accompanying assignment for each novel. The summer reading assignment is due on the first day of school, with a 10 pt. penalty for each day work is submitted late, up to four days. Reading check tests will be administered the first week of return to school.

Novels:

All students must read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.

Students must select and read one of the following novels:

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson (contains mature language and themes)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (contains mature themes)

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

For each novel, students must complete the following:

1. In-text annotations (60 pts.)
2. Chapter summaries (20 pts.)
3. Vocabulary Chart (minimum of 25 words) (20 pts.)

1. In-text Annotations

As an active reader, you should have questions in your mind. As you read, you should be looking for answers to these questions. You should also have a pencil in hand to "take notes" in your book. Paired with highlighting, the process will help you stay focused and involved in the book and assist in comprehension.

- a) Characters – Information about characters should be highlighted in yellow. If unable to write in the book, use yellow post-it notes. Notes or questions about each character can be jotted in the margin next to the highlighted text. On the first page of each chapter, write the names of characters first introduced in the chapter.
- b) Setting – Information on the setting should be highlighted in pink. If unable to write in the book, use pink post-it notes. Notes or questions on the setting can be jotted in the margin next to the highlighted text.
- c) Questions/Thoughts/Comments – As you read, write questions, thoughts, and comments that come to mind in the margins. These do not have to be "literary" comments but should be related to the text. For example, "good word choice" or "This reminds me of that movie _____ because..." are equally acceptable. Use post-its if needed or preferred (Choose a different color from pink or yellow if using post-its throughout.) There should be at least one question/thought/comment for every two pages of the text.

2. Chapter Summaries – At the end of each chapter, write a brief 1-3 sentence summary of what happened in the chapter. Use post-its if needed or preferred. Sentence structure is important when improving one's

writing style. In each summary, one sentence should be at least 30 words in length. Summaries should be handwritten.

3. Vocabulary Chart – As you come across words you do not know, circle the words in the text and make a list of these words inside the back cover of your book along with the page # on which the word was found. Using a dictionary or online dictionary, define each word. Example:

Churlish (p.8) – having a bad disposition; surly

Physiognomy (p. 12) – the human face

Use additional paper as needed and staple or place inside back cover. The vocabulary should be handwritten.

Theme Tracking for *Wuthering Heights*

Choose a theme from the novel (Revenge, Betrayal, Love, Violence, Exile, etc.) and create a typed list of at least 10 specific examples from the text that support the development of your chosen theme. Cite page numbers.

Literary Terms Assignment

On 3x5 lined index cards, define the following literary and grammar terms-terms one is expected to know upon entering twelfth grade. There will be a test on these terms during the first week of school. Keep these index cards in an index card file box. You will keep the box throughout your senior year of high school, adding cards as you learn new terms. Write the term on the front and the definition on the back of each card. There will be quizzes given on these terms intermittently throughout the school year.

Terms to Know for AP Literature and Composition

Notecards for these terms will be collected on the first day of school. Please put your initials on the back of each card.

- Act
- Allegory
- Alliteration
- Allusion
- Anaphora *
- Antagonist
- Aporia *
- Apostrophe
- Aside
- Biography
- Blank verse
- Characterization
- Chorus
- Climax
- Conflict
- Connotation
- Coordinating Conjunctions (FANBOYS)
- Couplet
- Denotation
- Dialect
- Dialogue
- Diction
- Direct characterization
- Drama
- Dramatic Irony
- Dynamic Character
- Eight forms of the verb –to be
- Eight parts of speech
- Empathy
- End rhyme
- Enjambment*
- Epic
- Ethos *
- Etymology *
- exposition
- External conflict
- Fiction
- Foil
- Foreshadowing
- Genre
- Hyperbole
- Iambic pentameter
- imagery
- Indirect characterization
- Inference
- Internal conflict
- Internal rhyme
- Irony
- Juxtaposition *
- Logos*
- Metaphor
- Meter
- Monologue
- Mood
- Motivation
- Myth
- Narrator
- Nonfiction
- Onomatopoeia
- Paraphrase
- Pathos*
- Personification
- Playwright
- Plot
- Point-of-view
- Polysyndeton*
- Prologue
- Prose
- Protagonist
- Pun
- Rhetoric*
- Rhyme Scheme
- Satire
- Setting
- shift
- Simile
- Soliloquy
- Sonnet
- Speaker
- Stage directions
- stanza
- Static character
- Suspense
- Symbol
- Synecdoche*
- Syntax
- TAG *
- Textual Evidence
- The parts of the plot (in order)
- Theme
- Thesis *
- Tone
- Tragedy
- Works Cited
- Analogy
- Cliché
- Conceit
- Epithet
- Euphemism
- Oxymoron
- Paradox
- Synaesthesia
- Colloquial
- Ambiguity
- Aphorism