

## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Dear Students:

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition. Reading, thinking, and writing with rigor this summer will help you sharpen the literary analysis skills you have developed thus far, and will help to prepare you for this course. Please e-mail either of us with any questions at [ferizovicj@newmilfordps.org](mailto:ferizovicj@newmilfordps.org) or [lacavaj@newmilfordps.org](mailto:lacavaj@newmilfordps.org). We look forward to meeting you this fall and we wish you an enjoyable summer!

### Summer Reading Assignment

#### READ

1. Read *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller (mandatory reading).
2. Select and read one additional book of your choice (See book list for choices).

#### WRITE

1. Write the *Catch 22* essay. (See the prompt below.)
2. Write a poetry analysis essay.

#### Essay Prompt for *Catch 22*

The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Using *Catch 22*, write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary. 2-3 pages in length, MLA format.

#### Essay Prompt for Poetry Analysis

The two poems (see attached) by William Wordsworth and Robert Frost present encounters with nature, but the two poets handle those encounters very differently. In a well-organized essay, distinguish between the attitudes (toward nature, toward the solitary individual, etc.) expressed in the poems and discuss the techniques that the poets use to present these attitudes. Be sure to support your statements with specific references. 2-3 pages in length, MLA format.

#### A word about annotations:

**Annotations are not required.** However, you should begin to develop the habit of annotating your texts by marking up the margins of your book with phrases about key ideas, questions, and connections. While you read, you should be asking yourself questions such as: "What does this mean?" "Why is the writer drawing this conclusion?" "What is the significance of the repetition of certain motifs?" "How can I see this character changing and developing throughout the text?"

1985 Poems: "There Was A Boy" (William Wordsworth) and "The Most of It" (Robert Frost)

**Prompt:** These two poems present encounters with nature, but the two poets handle those encounters very differently. In a well-organized essay, distinguish between the attitudes (toward nature, toward the solitary individual, etc.) expressed in the poems and discuss the techniques that the poets use to present these attitudes. Be sure to support your statements with specific references.

### There was a boy by William Wordsworth

There was a boy; ye knew him well, ye cliffs  
And islands of Winander! -- many a time,  
At evening, when the earliest stars began  
move along the edges of the hills,  
or setting, would he stand alone,  
Beneath the trees, or by the glimmering lake;  
And there, with fingers interwoven, both hands  
Pressed closely palm to palm and to his mouth  
Uplifted, he, as through an instrument,  
Blew mimic hootings to the silent owls  
That they might answer him.--And they would shout  
Across the watery vale, and shout again,  
Responsive to his call,--with quivering peals,  
And long halloos, and screams, and echoes loud  
Redoubled and redoubled; concourse wild  
Of jocund din! And, when there came a pause  
Of silence such as baffled his best skill:  
Then, sometimes, in that silence, while he hung  
Listening, a gentle shock of mild surprise  
Has carried far into his heart the voice  
Of mountain-torrents; or the visible scene  
Would enter unawares into his mind  
With all its solemn imagery, its rocks,  
Its woods, and that uncertain heaven received  
Into the bosom of the steady lake.

**Notes:** The vale of Esthwaite with its village of Hawkshead, the school which Wordsworth attended, and the nearby churchyard as here described. The schoolmate whose grave was in the churchyard was probably John Vickers who died in 1782, when Wordsworth was twelve.

### The Most of It by Robert Frost

He thought he kept the universe alone;  
For all the voice in answer he could wake  
Was but the mocking echo of his own  
From some tree-hidden cliff across the lake.  
Some morning from the boulder-broken beach  
He would cry out on life, that what it wants  
Is not its own love back in copy speech,  
But counter-love, original response.  
And nothing ever came of what he cried  
Unless it was the embodiment that crashed  
In the cliff's talus<sup>1</sup> on the other side,  
And then in the far-distant water splashed,  
But after a time allowed for it to swim,  
Instead of proving human when it neared  
And someone else additional to him,  
As a great buck it powerfully appeared,  
Pushing the crumpled water up ahead,  
And landed pouring like a waterfall,  
And stumbled through the rocks with horny tread,  
And forced the underbrush--and that was all.

<sup>1</sup> rock debris at the bottom of a cliff

1984

*100 Years of Solitude*  
*Absalom, Absalom*  
*The Age of Innocence*  
*Agnes of God*  
*Alias Grace*  
*Alive*  
*All the King's Men*  
*All the Pretty Horses*  
*All Quiet on the Western Front*  
*Angela's Ashes*  
*Antigone*  
*Anna Karenina*  
*The Bear*  
*The Bell Jar*  
*Billy Budd*  
*The Birthday Party*  
*Black Boy*  
*Bleak House*  
*Bless Me, Ultima*  
*The Bluest Eye*  
*The Bonesetter's Daughter*  
*Brave New World*  
*Breakfast of Champions*  
*Candide*  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
*Cat's Eye*  
*Ceremony*  
*The Color Purple*  
*Crime and Punishment*  
*Cry, the Beloved Country*  
*A Cup of Tea*  
*Daisy Miller*  
*The Dante Club*  
*David Copperfield*  
*The Death in the Family*  
*Delta Wedding*  
*Dinner at the Homesick*  
*Restaurant*  
*A Doll House*  
*Don Quixote*  
*Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*  
*Emma*  
*An Enemy of the People*  
*Ethan Frome*  
*The Eumenides*  
*Equus*  
*Farewell to Arms*  
*The Father*  
*Fathers and Sons*  
*Faust*  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls*  
*The Gathering of Old Men*

*Ghosts*  
*Girl with a Pearl Earring*  
*Gone with the Wind*  
*The Grapes of Wrath*  
*The Good Soldier*  
*Gulliver's Travels*  
*The Guns of August*  
*The Handmaid's Tale*  
*Hiroshima*  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the*  
*The Hot Zone*  
*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*  
*The Hours, Cunningham*  
*House Made of Dawn*  
*Galaxy*  
*I Am Charlotte Simmons*  
*Invisible Man*  
*The Joy Luck Club*  
*Jude the Obscure*  
*The Kitchen God's Wife*  
*The Killer Angels*  
*Light in August, Faulkner*  
*Love Medicine*  
*The Martian Chronicles*  
*Memoirs of a Geisha*  
*The Mayor of Casterbridge*  
*Madame Bovary*  
*Medea*  
*The Member of a Wedding*  
*Middlemarch*  
*Moby Dick, Melville*  
*Moll Flanders*  
*Monkey Bridge*  
*Mrs. Dalloway*  
*Mrs. Warren's Profession*  
*Murder in the Cathedral*  
*Native Son*  
*No-No Boy*  
*The Nuclear Age, O'Brien*  
*Obasan*  
*Oedipus Rex*  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's*  
*Nest*  
*The Optimist's Daughter*  
*Pale Fire*  
*The Piano Lesson*  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray*  
*The Plague*  
*Pnin*  
*The Poisonwood Bible*  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a*  
*Young Man*  
*Prep: A Novel*

*Pride and Prejudice*  
*The Portrait of a Lady*  
*Praisesong for the Widow*  
*The Power of Glory*  
*The Quiet American*  
*Rebecca*  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*  
*Are Dead*  
*Saint Joan*  
*The Shipping News*  
*Silas Marner*  
*Slaughterhouse Five*  
*Snow Falling on Cedars*  
*Song of Solomon*  
*The Stone Angel*  
*Sula*  
*The Sun Also Rises*  
*Tar Baby*  
*Tess of D'Arbervilles*  
*Things Fall Apart*  
*A Thousand Acres*  
*The Third Twin*  
*The Trial*  
*The Turn of the Screw*  
*The Warden*  
*The Way We Live Now*  
*White Teeth*  
*The Winter's Tale*  
*Winter in the Blood*  
*Wise Blood*  
*The Woman Warrior*  
*The Zoo Story*