

## Advanced Placement Literature Summer Reading Assignment

### Texts:

*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey.

### Background:

The 2012 AP Literature Exam open question reads:  
"And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency." –Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

All three of the above novels show cultural, physical and geographical surroundings shaping psychological or moral traits in a character. Your task, as you read, is to track those influences and determine their effects on our main characters' lives and on the outcomes of their struggles. Analyze HOW surroundings affect these characters and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

### Assignment:

Read each work with a pad of sticky notes. As you read, place post-it notes on the pages containing what seem to be important passages related to the topic above. When you finish reading record the most important 6-8 passages and their page numbers for each book and a brief (3-5 sentence) response for each passage you choose. Any notes found to have been influenced by unattributed outside sources, such as Internet websites like SparkNotes.com, will automatically receive a zero.

Please bring your completed journal to class on the first day.

This is your only assignment. The following assessment list is for the journal. You will be writing a paper on these books, but not until after you have returned to school and we have had the chance to meet, discuss these works, and focus your writing.

### AP Literature Summer Reading Journal Assessment

- Passages are meaningful and reveal perceptive reading (30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Passages cover the breadth and depth of the novel and characters and follow the progression of the works (20) \_\_\_\_\_
- Though the novels are quite complex, the student responses *attempt to* analyze the significance of the characters, their conflicts, their complex relationships, or any motif, symbol, big idea, or setting detail. (30) \_\_\_\_\_
- Responses avoid superficial connections and illogical evaluative statements. Students use the response to pose thoughtful questions. (20) \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Score** \_\_\_\_\_