

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
“Summer” Assignment
2021

Course Description

The AP English course in Literature and Composition will engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students will consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

The course will include intensive study of representative works from various genres, cultures, and periods spanning from the sixteenth century to contemporary times. Students will consider the social and historical values they reflect and embody. Reading will build upon reading done in Advanced English 9, 10 and AP English Language.

Writing will be an integral part of the course, for the AP Lit. exam is weighted toward students writing about literature. Writing assignments will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. The goal of writing assignments is to increase the students’ ability to explain clearly, cogently, even elegantly, what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do. Since reading and writing stimulate each other, they will be taught together.

At Airline High School, AP English Literature and Composition is a spring semester course. In May, students will have the opportunity to sit for the AP English Literature exam; qualifying scores may result in the awarding of college credit. (Students will be advised to check with their specific colleges for credits awarded.)

The mandatory summer reading must be completed before the first day of class, January 4, 2022. Since you have more time than other classes to complete this assignment, you are required to read **ALL THREE** of the following books before January:

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston
A Midsummer Night’s Dream, William Shakespeare
Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte

Read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and *Wuthering Heights* and complete a Major Works Data Sheet for EACH novel (link to data sheet is attached at the end of this document). Be ready for an AP Literature Q3 writing on the third day of class. Here are examples of past Q3 prompts so you can know what to possibly expect: https://mseffie.com/iOpeners/Open_Questions.pdf

Be ready to share (via Google) on the first day of class, January 4, 2022, the Major Works Data Sheet for ALL THREE NOVELS. *This assignment will not be accepted late.* Be ready for an in-depth class discussion and writing over the novels. Do not procrastinate with this assignment, as it will make things exponentially more difficult

if you do! Also, if you are tempted to “take the easy way out” and Google answers or look up texts on SparkNotes, ask yourself if AP Literature is really a journey you want to embark upon. Polonius says it best in Act II of *Hamlet*: “To thine own self be true.”

Students or parents who have questions should email me at lisa.rauschenbach@bossierschools.org. You can also come by my room in the fall if you have questions...I would love to meet all of you :). Have a great summer and fall semester! Feel free to email if you need assistance, have questions, or just want to talk about the books you are reading. ~Mrs. Rauschenbach

Tentative Spring 2022 Reading List

All students:

Hamlet, Shakespeare
A Streetcar Named Desire, Williams
Frankenstein, Shelley
All the Light We Cannot See, Doerr

LINK TO THE MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET (please follow the directions carefully):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CgzXMVFCjgt20aTEwr4H-7AZB9VmYtFSfx2nA9XuiII/edit>