

AP Summer Reading

Due First Week of School

Welcome! The goal of AP Literature and Composition is for students to engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature, deepening their understanding of the ways writers use literature to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Therefore, the core of our class will be a vigorous reading and writing program. It's highly suggested that you provide your own books next year as annotating them will better foster learning and analysis.

Summer Reading Assignments:

Do NOT hurry and just try to get these out of the way, nor should you wait to work on them until the last minute. Not only will the summer reading be a MAJOR part of your grade for the first semester, it will also prepare you to score well on the AP exam. All the novels we read throughout the year are culminating – we explore the different tones, points of view, and themes illuminated in each. The first week of school will include an essay over the summer works as well as a test. Below is the reading order I suggest to help with successful and deeply pleasurable reading.

Read:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
2. *Cry, the Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton
3. *Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison

IMPORTANT NOTE: The class textbook is:

Perrine's Literature Structure, Sound, & Sense 12th AP Edition

- You must purchase this book from Heritage (that is the best way to ensure both availability and a low price). The cost this year for this edition is approximately \$103.00. We will provide the book in class, and you can settle up with the bookkeeper.

As with the summer books, other novels for the course will be purchased on your own.

Notes

- My expectations are that you will annotate each book carefully and thoughtfully. At the college level, just "reading" a book or poem is of little value. Instead, you will be expected to allude to passages, compare it to other things, identify issues and ideas, internalize it, and more. Literary devices to consider: plot, character development, theme, setting, style, conflict, and point of view.
- I will be checking your annotations within your books, so make sure when you are highlighting, writing, or underlining, you can speak about *why* it is important.

*****You can also find this on-line at HHS website*****

DeStefano

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* * Writing Assignment (attached)**

WARNING!!!!

We are aware that there are a variety of resources available to students who wish to cheat. However, we must warn you that we are not only familiar with *those* resources, we are also familiar with resources designed to help teachers find cheaters. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!** If you still choose to turn in work that is not your own, you will receive no credit, a parent conference will be called with the Vice-Principal of Discipline, and a note will be placed in your permanent file.

Please come to school prepared on the first day with:

1. A three ring binder with dividers and notebook paper (this binder will be solely for English).
2. Your summer work (in whatever form you have it)
3. Writing implements
4. An open mind.

We are looking forward to next year!

Regards,

Mr. DeStefano

For the adult reader, the possible verdicts are five:

1. *I can see this is good and I like it*
2. *I can see this is good and I don't like it*
3. *I can see this is good and, though at the present I don't like it, I believe that with perseverance I shall come to like it*
4. *I can see that this is trash but I like it*
5. *I can see this is trash and I don't like it*

As readers, we remain in the nursery stage so long as we cannot distinguish between taste and judgment, so long, that is, as the possible verdicts we can pass on a book are two – this I like, this I don't like.

~W. H. Auden