

Dear AP English Students,

We look forward to working with you this fall, and we want to remind you that there are assignments due the first day of school. On the reverse side of this letter is a reading list, a journal assignment, and **two** essay assignments that are all due on the first day of class.

**Your basic assignment is:**

---

1. Select two books from the included reading list. Select 1 book from list A, one book from list B.
2. Keep a comprehensive journal for each of the works. You will need this for class discussion, papers and presentations.
  - a. Write between 3 and 4 entries per literary piece. Each entry should be a response to a significant passage. Include: date of journal entry, page # from book, short summary of the passage, and your response. You will hand in your complete journal during the first week of school. ***Each entry should be no longer than one typed page***
  - b. We will be grading two entries: one from each work. You should have **3-4** entries for each work.
3. Use one of the books that you read to answer one of the prompts included on the next page in a 1-2 page essay.
  - Do not summarize the novel in your essay. Instead, relate important events in the novel that address the prompt.
  - Within the body of the paper, develop and substantiate your thesis with specifics from the works, including quoted passages. and parenthetical citations.
  - The paper should be typed or written on a word processor.
  - This is not a collaborative effort. Each student must write his/her own paper

If you do not plan to read the works, keep the journal and write the essays (all due on the first day of class), we suggest that you think strongly about contacting your guidance counselor and transferring to another course.

We wish you great remaining weeks of vacation & reading enjoyment!

Sincerely,

AP English Teachers

## AP SUMMER READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT

### Reading

---

Choose one book from each of the following lists. Short summaries of each novel are included below. It is very important that you read these novels carefully—since you will be using this reading throughout next year and, eventually, on the actual AP Literature Exam.

<b>List A</b>	<b>List B</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ralph Ellison <i>Invisible Man</i></li><li>• Richard Wright <i>Native Son</i></li><li>• Joseph Heller <i>Catch 22</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Toni Morrison <i>Song of Solomon</i></li><li>• Gabriel Garcia Marquez <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i></li><li>• Jane Austen <i>Pride and Prejudice</i></li></ul>

### ***One Hundred Years of Solitude***

---

The brilliant, bestselling, landmark novel that tells the story of the Buendia family, and chronicles the irreconcilable conflict between the desire for solitude and the need for love—in rich, imaginative prose that has come to define an entire genre known as "magical realism."

### ***Native Son***

---

Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic.

### ***Invisible Man***

---

A first novel by an unknown writer, it remained on the bestseller list for sixteen weeks, won the National Book Award for fiction, and established Ralph Ellison as one of the key writers of the century. The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be. The book is a passionate and witty tour de force of style, strongly influenced by T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Joyce, and Dostoevsky.

### ***Pride and Prejudice***

---

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."

So begins *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen's witty comedy of manners--one of the most popular novels of all time--that features splendidly civilized sparring between the proud Mr. Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet as they play out their spirited courtship in a series of eighteenth-century drawing-room intrigues.

### ***Catch 22***

---

It's impossible not to consider *Catch-22* to be something of a period piece. But 40 years on, the novel's undiminished strength is its looking-glass logic. Again and again, Heller's characters demonstrate that what is commonly held to be good, is bad; what is sensible, is nonsense.

---

You are on your own to find the books: library or purchase. Buying your own copies is often easier for you, since you can mark important passages that you will use in your journal entries and paper. Some books will be available for free for Kindle. Some are also available through Ms. Grandfield.

**Your Responsibilities:**

**Reader's Response Journal:**

You are expected to keep a journal that we will use for class discussion. Write between 3 and 4 entries per literary piece. Each entry should be a response to a significant passage. Include: page #, short summary of the passage, and your response. You will hand in your complete journal during the first week of school.

\*\*\*\*\**Each entry should be no longer than one typed page.*\*\*\*\*\*

**Your teacher will grade: TWO entries: one from each work.**

**Paper:**

---

Below are three Open-Ended questions taken from actual AP Exams (years 2005 and 2007). Write an essay for 1 of these prompts—essay should be 1-2 pages typed.

**2005.** In Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess "That outward existence which conforms, the inward life that questions." In a novel or play that you have studied, identify a character who outwardly conforms while questioning inwardly. Then write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary.

**2005, Form B.** One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel or a drama struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.

**2007.** In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

**\*\*\*These essays are due the first day of school and will be graded.\*\*\***

Neither the journal nor the paper can be done in collaboration with another student.

Questions over the summer, please contact:

Mr. Wheaton [Michael.wheaton@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:Michael.wheaton@new-haven.k12.ct.us)

Mr. Donahue [Donahue72@hotmail.com](mailto:Donahue72@hotmail.com)

## A Generic Rubric for the AP Essay Exam

9-8	Persuasive and well-focused; Answers all parts of the question completely, using specific evidence from the work and showing how that evidence is relevant to the point being made. Demonstrates clear understanding of the work and recognizes complexities of attitude or tone. Demonstrates stylistic maturity by an effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. Need not be without flaws, but must reveal an ability to choose from and control a wide range of the elements of effective writing.
6-7	Competent: Also accurately answers all parts of the question, but does so less fully or effectively than essays in the top range. (Discussion of techniques used in a passage may be less thorough and less specific.) Well written in an appropriate style, but with less maturity than the top papers. Some lapses in diction or syntax may appear, but demonstrates sufficient control over the elements of composition to present the writer's ideas clearly.
5	Plodding and superficial: Discusses the question, but may be simplistic or imprecise. (May attempt to discuss the techniques in the passage, but may be overly general or vague.) Adequately written, but may demonstrate inconsistent control over the elements of composition. Organization is attempted, but may not be fully realized or particularly effective.
3-4	Inadequate: Attempts to answer the question, but does so either inaccurately or without the support of specific evidence. (May confuse the attitude presented in the passage or otherwise misrepresent the passage.) Discussion of techniques may be omitted or inaccurate. Writing may convey the writer's ideas, but reveals weak control over diction, syntax, or organization. May contain many spelling or grammatical errors. Statements are seldom supported with specific or persuasive evidence.
1-2	Fails to respond adequately to the question. May misunderstand the question (or the passage) May fail to discuss the techniques used or otherwise fail to respond adequately to the question. Unacceptably brief or poorly written on several counts. Writing reveals consistent weakness in grammar or other basic elements of composition. Although may make some attempt to answer the question, response has little clarity and only slight, if any, evidence in its support.

