

## AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading 2017

I am SO excited to work with you all next year in AP English! This class is going to grow and stretch you - and make sure that you are ready for any text or piece of writing you encounter in college! To that end, I'm sharing a summer reading assignment for you to complete in the next few weeks.

### The *WHYS* of Summer Reading:

- ★ Have you heard of the summer slide? The statistics on what happens when students do not read over the summer are pretty scary:
  - Children who do not read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement.
  - Reading loss is cumulative. Students who do not read during the summer could be three years below grade level by fifth grade simply from not reading during the summer. This cumulative loss makes it very difficult to close the achievement gap that exists during the school year alone.
  - Two thirds of the 9th grade achievement gap can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities as early as elementary school.
  - Summer reading loss has been identified as one of the three major obstacles to get students to reading proficiency.
  
- ★ Research also shows that people who read gain great benefits, such as lower stress levels, higher degrees of empathy & cultural awareness, and are able to sleep better. Summer reading is just another way to make your summer break THAT much more relaxing.

### The *WHAT* of Summer Reading:

**\*Over summer break, you are required to read three texts from the suggested reading list.\*** The texts listed below are some of the most cited works of literature on the AP English Literature exam since 1970. The numbers next to the texts are the number of times the work has been cited in that time period, so you may use your knowledge of probability to determine your literature choices. Choose one text from each category: a Shakespeare play, a piece of Greek/Roman literature, and a piece from the general literature category. **It is strongly suggested that you both read and watch the Shakespeare play for understanding.**

**In addition to this reading, you will be required to complete a short reading quiz for each of these texts and email them to me by midnight on July 3rd (text #1), July 31st (text #2) and August 11th (text #3). The reading quizzes are located below. My email is [Lbubacz@thefsi.us](mailto:Lbubacz@thefsi.us)**

Use the rest of this packet to help you complete your assignment ...

## **FICTION & DRAMA Quiz:**

Overall Directions: Use complete sentences and your best academic language to answer the following questions about your chosen summer reading book. If provided, the sentence lengths noted for each question are a minimum requirement.

- **Question 1:** *What is the title, author, and lexile of your book? (www.lexile.com)*
- **Question 2:** *Where did you find this book? (Library? Bookstore? E-text? Borrowed from a friend?)*
- **Question 3:** *Choose one protagonist (main character) from your book and describe this character. (4 sentences)*
- **Question 4:** *Describe how the antagonist (opponent of the main character) challenges the protagonist and what the outcome is. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 5:** *Describe the major conflict of the book. What type of conflict is it? How is this conflict significant in shaping the protagonist? (6 sentences) Reminder: You might have man vs. self, man vs. nature, man vs. man, man vs. society or man vs. technology; internal or external; main or subordinate.*
- **Question 6:** *Select a quotation from the book and explain why it is significant. (4 sentences)*
- **Question 7:** *Write a complete sentence to capture the theme of this book. Then explain why this theme is relevant universally. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 8:** *How many stars would you give this book (between 1-5)? Justify your answer. (4 sentences)*
- **BONUS Question:** (for extra credit / your teacher's respect)
- *Write a paragraph where you analyze the author's characterization of the protagonist through the use of a literary device (or more than one). Consider the following devices: detail, diction, imagery, symbolism and tone.*

## General Fiction Choice List

26 Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison  
20 Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte  
18 Great Expectations by Charles Dickens  
16 Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevski  
16 Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad  
16 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte  
15 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain  
15 Moby Dick by Herman Melville  
14 Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce  
13 The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne  
13 Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zorah Neale Hurston  
12 Catch-22 by Joseph Heller  
11 Billy Budd by Herman Melville  
11 Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko  
11 Light in August by William Faulkner  
10 As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner  
10 Beloved by Toni Morrison  
10 The Color Purple by Alice Walker  
10 The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams  
10 Native Son by Richard Wright  
10 Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison  
10 A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams  
9 Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller  
9 A Passage to India by E. M. Forster  
8 All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy  
8 Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy  
8 Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya  
8 Candide by Voltaire  
8 The Crucible by Arthur Miller  
8 The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck  
8 Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy  
8 The Jungle by Upton Sinclair  
8 Portrait of a Lady by Henry James  
8 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard  
8 Sula by Toni Morrison  
8 Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett  
7 All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren  
7 Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton  
7 Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton  
7 Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad  
7 Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert  
7 The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy  
7 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen  
7 The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner  
7 The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway  
7 Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

7 Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe  
6 Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton  
6 A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen  
6 An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen  
6 Equus by Peter Shaffer  
6 Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift  
6 Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen  
6 Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw  
6 Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe  
6 Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf  
6 Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot  
6 Obasan by Joy Kogawa  
6 The Piano Lesson by August Wilson  
6 The Turn of the Screw by Henry James  
6 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee  
5 Bleak House by Charles Dickens  
5 The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chkhov  
5 Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe  
5 Frankenstein by Mary Shelley  
5 Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin  
5 Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw  
5 Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser  
5 A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens  
5 Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys  
5 Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor

#### **Shakespeare Choice List**

17 King Lear by William Shakespeare  
10 Othello by William Shakespeare  
7 The Tempest by William Shakespeare  
6 The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare  
4 Twelfth Night  
4 The Winter's Tale  
4 As You Like It

#### **Greek and Roman Literature Choice List**

10 Antigone by Sophocles  
7 Oedipus Rex by Sophocles  
6 Medea by Euripides  
3 The Odyssey by Homer