

AP Literature Summer Reading, Summer 2024

One of the goals of the English curriculum at CCS is to help students become careful and critical readers who exercise discernment in the choice of reading materials. With that in mind, your summer reading assignment allows you to make wise choices about what you read, but it also includes required components to give you parameters with which to analyze the materials.

ASSIGNMENT #1

Read the book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. You may choose to read the normal version or *How to Read Literature Like a Professor for Kids*. Both contain similar information, one just uses simpler language. This isn't necessarily a book you will sit and read in-depth. It's more of a book of tools to skim and add to your brain to help you better understand literary texts.

Using the book you choose for Assignment #2, answer **THREE** of the prompts below.

- 1) **Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)**
Describe a trip a character takes in the novel using the five elements covered in the chapter.
- 2) **Nice to Eat With You: Acts of Communion**
Explain the significance of a meal or other gathering that takes place in the novel.
- 3) **Now Where Have I Seen Him Before?**
Explain how an understanding of the Bible, Shakespeare, fairy tales, and/or Greek Mythology can help a reader better understand the novel. Include specific examples from the text.
- 4) **It's More than Just Rain or Snow or Springtime**
Describe the weather in the novel and analyze how it connects to the plot or a particular character.
- 5) **Is That a Symbol?**
Fully describe at least three symbols found in the novel and how the author uses them to expand the theme, characterization, or plot.
- 6) **It's All Political**
Write about what the book says about the time and place during which it was written, giving particular consideration to the politics of the time.
- 7) **Geography Matters**
Write a description of how the author uses the geography of a text to get across a larger theme, bring about a key plot point, or reveal an element of characterization.
- 8) **Marked for Greatness, He's Blind for a Reason, and It's Never Just Heart Disease**
Select a character from your novel with a physical imperfection and write an analysis of how it affects the characterization and what other symbolism it might have.
- 9) **Don't Read With Your Eyes**
Write about how your perspective as a 21st century reader limits your ability to understand the novel. Include specific examples from the text where you might need to step outside of your perspective to better understand it.

ASSIGNMENT #2

Choose one book from the list of Most Frequently Cited AP Texts (see next page). Read it and use it to complete Assignment #1.

Most Frequently Cited AP Texts

Note: Many of these novels may contain mature themes and language. As a student, it is up to you to use discernment when choosing from the list. You may want to receive input from your parents as well.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
King Lear by William Shakespeare
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Billy Budd by Herman Melville
Antigone by Sophocles
Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
Light in August by William Faulkner
Native Son by Richard Wright
Othello by William Shakespeare
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
Candide by Voltaire
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
The Tempest by William Shakespeare
All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
Sula by Toni Morrison
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren
Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
Medea by Euripides
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee
Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Equus by Peter Shaffer
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen
Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw
Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot
Obasan by Joy Kogawa
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov
Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe
Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes
Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw
My Antonia by Willa Cather
Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

ASSIGNMENT #3

Read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and complete a dialectical journal (a reading response journal).

Dialectical (die-uh-LEKT-i-cul)- n. the art or practice of arriving at the truth through logical arguments
Journal - n. a personal record of events, experiences, and reflections kept on a regular basis

A dialectical reading journal functions like a zoom lens, focusing in on details that deserve closer examination or attract the reader's attention. Imagine that you are a photographer and the landscape is a text composed of many flowers. In a dialectical journal, the reader focuses on details such as a photographer focuses on specific flowers. The reader understands the whole text more clearly because of the focus on specific details as the photographer understands the landscape because of the focus on the specific flowers that compose the whole.

Divide your paper into 2 vertical columns, labeling the left column "Book" and the right column "My Responses." As you read, fill in the LEFT column with quotations for reflections. BE SURE TO INCLUDE PAGE NUMBERS. In the RIGHT column, respond to the deeper meaning of the quote. Your responses should be thoughtful and detailed and connected to the reading. Do not just express your opinion. Think, question, and try to answer your questions. INCLUDE ENTRIES FROM THE ENTIRE WORK. This journal may be handwritten or typed.

We will begin the year with *Pride and Prejudice* so it is important that you read the book ahead of time. Otherwise, you may find it difficult to keep up with the work at the beginning of the year.

Sample Dialectical Journal

Book	My Responses
<p>"And each time he passed, the young man had a sick, frightened feeling, which made him scowl and feel ashamed. He was hopelessly in debt to his landlady, and was afraid of meeting her.</p> <p>This was not because he was cowardly and abject, quite the contrary; but for some time past he had been in an overstrained irritable condition, verging on hypochondria. He had become so completely absorbed in himself, and isolated from his fellows that he dreaded meeting, not only his landlady, but anyone at all. He was crushed by poverty, but the anxieties of his position had of late ceased to weigh upon him. He had given up attending to matters of practical importance; he had lost all desire to do so. Nothing that any landlady could do had a real terror for him. But to be stopped on the stairs, to be forced to listen to her trivial, irrelevant gossip, to pestering demands for payment, threats and complaints, and to rack his brains for excuses, to prevaricate, to lie—no, rather than that, he would creep down the stairs like a cat and slip out unseen." (1)</p>	<p>What caused his poverty/current position? How long has this been going on? The text suggests a while.</p> <p>Issues with money can become all-consuming and begin to affect mental and physical health.</p> <p>Is it notable to his character that he doesn't want to have to lie or make excuses - he would rather avoid it altogether?</p> <p>This is the beginning of the novel. Who is this person and why does he matter?</p> <p>Simile - "creep down the stairs like a cat and slip out unseen" 🐱</p>

If you have any questions or trouble with the assignments, please e-mail szeiger@cccruader.org.