

**Walter Johnson High School
Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2025**

Overview: Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is a course which is designed to give students college level experience in literary interpretation and writing. As such, it is meant to be challenging and rigorous. Students should expect to read a minimum of ten novels and plays during the year, and they should prepare to engage each text on an intense level. It is the goal of the course to prepare students for the AP Literature test, and also to make them lifelong students and lovers of literature.

Summer Reading:

All students are required to read **ONE** of the following novels listed below:

***The Namesake* - Jhumpa Lahiri**

***Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro**

***The Nickel Boys* - Colson Whitehead**

***White Teeth* - Zadie Smith**

There will be a 30 point timed writing on the summer reading during the first week of school.

Each of the novels for summer reading has recently appeared on the AP Literature exam. Below you will find links to the online text for each novel as well as a brief introduction to each novel. Each novel can be found in the public library. Each novel can also be purchased on Amazon (purchasing a copy is recommended so you can annotate directly on the text).

[***The Namesake* Online Text**](#)

[***Never Let Me Go* Online Text**](#)

[***The Nickel Boys* Online Text**](#)

[***White Teeth* Online Text**](#)

***The Namesake* Intro:**

 **The Namesake Intro**

***Never Let Me Go* Intro:**

[Never Let Me Go Intro](#)

***The Nickel Boys* Intro:**

 **The Nickel Boys Intro**

***White Teeth* Intro:**

 **White Teeth Intro**

****White Teeth* Content Warning - A major character expresses suicidal ideation.**

As you read your summer reading novel, it is highly recommended you take detailed notes on:

Character traits; evolution/development of major characters

Conflicts and relationships among characters

Character motives and how the choices/decisions affect the character(s)

Characters' responses(s) to their setting, social mores/expectations

How the characters' actions relate to the overall theme of the novel

If purchase a copy of the novel, annotate significant passages as you read:

How to annotate:

Summarize key points in your own words

Circle key concepts and phrases

Write brief comments and questions in the margins

Highlight/underline

The AP Literature exam consists of 55 multiple choice questions (1 hour) and three literary analysis essays (2 hours). The Q3 essay is the open question essay in which students choose a literary work they have read to write about in a theme-related response to the prompt. The summer reading novel you choose is the first novel you will analyze that can prepare you for this essay on the exam.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the AP Literature teachers listed below.

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