

To: AP Literature and Composition students for the 2019-2020 school year.
From: S. Shurtleff (AP Literature and Composition Instructor)
Re: Summer Reading

In AP Literature and Composition, we will be working with and enjoying a variety of writers and genres from the British cannon as well as a selection of authors from cultures the world over. As you will be taking the AP Literature and Composition exam towards the end of the school year which, depending on your score, can count for college credit, this course will be operated at a college level. It will require a higher level of commitment and dedication throughout the school year than any previous course. In addition, it is required for each student to complete advanced reading over the summer in preparation for this course. These are designed so that you will know what is expected prior to the school year and to provide additional practice writing AP level essays. Show me your best work, as at this point, you should understand the fundamentals of composition. Your assignments are as follows:

- 1). Essay prompt: Critic Roland Barthes has said, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Choose a novel or play from the list on the back to read and analyze. Then, identify a central question the work raises. Considering Barthes' observation, write an essay in which you analyze that central question and the extent to which the work offers any answers. In addition, explain how an author's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary. Three pages. No more, no less. Choose your words wisely.
- 2). Read a second, different novel of fiction. This novel must be a British or Canadian prize-winning (or short-listed) novel (Man-Booker, Whitbread, Governor-General's Award, or the like). This may not be a children's or young adult novel. Once you have read it, research the historical and societal factors that were present in our world while the author composed that work. How do you see these factors influencing the work? This will require a fair amount of research into the society in which the author exists/existed. For example, "How did the educational and psychological factors affecting women display itself in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's writing?" Discuss your findings and ideas in detail in three pages. Include a Works Cited page in MLA format.
- 3). Read a collection of one British or world poet's works. What theme or set of ideas seems to be present within these works? Do they build off of each other? Do they in some way connect and form a larger meaning? Explore these and other connections in at least three pages, citing at least six different poems from the collection. Use specific examples from the texts.
- 4). Go to <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/> and choose one of the 130 poems from the anthology to memorize for the first day of school. Choose a poem that will be worthwhile and rewarding to you. You will be graded upon your delivery and depth of emotion conveyed. Study, memorize, and understand your poem. Be able to genuinely portray the sentiment of the poem.
- 5). Remedial Reading: This section pertains to any student who did not take honors or AP in freshman, sophomore, or junior year or who may have attended another school during that time. So we are all on the same page, review the following list. If you have not read these works, you will need to do so before beginning school in the fall. These books represent the novels or plays that your fellow AP Lit students have read while at Boardman High School. In order to be able to participate in discussions and understand allusions, it is suggested that these books be read.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet	Jamie Ford
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain
The Coffin Quilt	Ann Rinaldi
Mississippi Trial 1955	Christopher Crowe
The Glass Castle	Jeannette Walls
Black Boy	Richard Wright
Outliers	Malcolm Gladwell
Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Albom
The Essential 55	Ron Clark
The Road	Cormac McCarthy

All Essays will be turned in through Google Classroom. Due Dates for the essays are below. You must have each essay posted by the set dates or they will be considered late and one letter grade will be deducted for each day after the original due date. If you are having conflicting plans over the summer, contact me to set up alternative due dates. The password for the classroom account is **21ltdx0**. You must use your school gmail to sign up for this course. If you have any technical issues and are not sure your assignments have been uploaded, my e-mail address is Steven.Shurtleff@BoardmanSchools.org. Once you have set up your account, please share with me your choice for your memorization poem. I will respond so that you know I have received your poem choice and that your future essay submissions have been received as well. I will also respond in the comments section of your essay when I receive each of your essays. If you do not see a comment several days after the assignment is due, I may not have received it. Check with me immediately through email.

Due Dates: Essay 1: June 30, 2019
Essay 2: August 2, 2019
Essay 3: September 3, 2019

With consideration to the above specifications, please choose works that you believe you will sincerely expect to appreciate and enjoy. You may want to view a variety of films as well—classic and modern—which will inevitably work their way into class discussions. See the list on the reverse for viewing options. I expect this coming year to be both rewarding and challenging.

This course is designed for individuals who truly enjoy literature. This sampling of literature is indicative of what we will be studying this year. If, when reading the assigned works, you are not enjoying yourself, this course may not be for you. I will use all of the tools and enthusiasm at my disposal to make this an enjoyable and informative course. However, if you do not truly enjoy poetry and prose, nothing I can do will seriously alter that fact. Please keep this in mind before beginning this course in the autumn.

Respectfully,

Mr. Steven Shurtleff

AP Literature and Composition Instructor

Boardman High School

Steven.Shurtleff@BoardmanSchools.org

Class Web Site: <https://sites.google.com/a/boardmanschools.org/mr-shurtleff-s-english-web-site/>

Novels for Question 1

Alias Grace
All the King's Men
Candide
Crime and Punishment
Oedipus Rex
The Sound and the Fury
The Sun Also Rises
The Things They Carried
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
Don Quixote
Ghosts
Gulliver's Travels
Invisible Man
King Lear
High Fidelity
Things Fall Apart
Madame Bovary
The Quiet American
Blood Meridian
Lush Life
The God of Small Things
The Bonesetter's Daughter
Mrs. Dalloway
A Long Way Down

Orlando
Middlemarch
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
The Poisonwood Bible
Sister Carrie
The Road
Their Eyes Were Watching God
The Turn of the Screw
Major Barbara
A Gesture Life
Great Expectations
Heart of Darkness
Joe Turner's Come and Gone
Obasan
Angela's Ashes
The White Tiger
A Passage to India
One Hundred Years of Solitude
Out Stealing Horses
American Pastoral
White Teeth
The Picture of Dorian Gray
A Woman in Jerusalem

Film Suggestions (just for fun and allusions)

12 Angry Men
The Graduate
The Godfather
Seven Samurai
Casablanca
Memento
North by Northwest
Citizen Kane
M
Das Boot
Shawshank Redemption
Amistad
The Producers
The Terminal
The Third Man

Monty Python and the Holy Grail
The Life of Brian
Pan's Labyrinth
The Sting
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
On the Waterfront
The King's Speech
Blazing Saddles
Robin Hood: Men in Tights
Young Frankenstein
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Midnight in Paris
Trainspotting
Donnie Darko
The Bridge on the River Kwai