

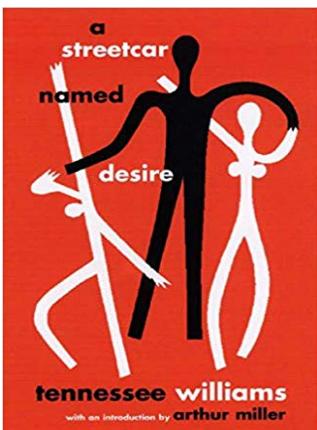
# Harrison High School English Department

## AP Literature Pre-Course Required Reading Assignment

### PRE-COURSE REQUIRED READING PHILOSOPHY:

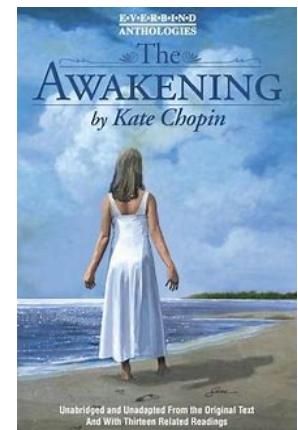
The pre-course required assignment is an opportunity for students to review pre-requisite skills, including vocabulary acquisition, literary analysis, reading comprehension, and effective writing. The required text forms the basis of our first units of study in AP Literature. Students who wish to further enhance their preparation for college-level English courses, including AP Literature, are encouraged to complete the bonus enrichment assignment in addition to the required assignment. Completing the bonus assignment will also aid in preparing for the AP English Literature examination in May.

### REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT:



1. Joyfully embrace the notion that reading puts the **fun** in fundamental skill. Books are a great adventure.
2. Since CTLS is not open to students in the summer, we invite you to share this adventure with us in a Schoology course. Log in and join using the code **5QSZ-NHK2-3PQM2**. You'll find the Big 6 Chart (a summary document of the AP Literature standards that guide our learning throughout the semester) and discussion posts to help you focus your reading over the summer.
3. Obtain a copy of [\*A Streetcar Named Desire\*](#), a short play by Tennessee Williams and *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. You may purchase a copy or borrow one from the public library. **Read the play and the novella** and be ready to discuss them fully on the first day of the semester.

Since one text is a play, the reading time should be a commitment of a couple of hours, tops; the other text is not a full length novel, and it has fairly short chapters. This might take you a week if you read quickly or a couple of weeks if you read at a more leisurely pace. Some students may take a bit longer if they wish to annotate the text. Annotation is not a requirement, but the "Invitation to Notice" guidelines below may help focus your reading. Annotate only if you personally need to mark the text for aiding comprehension or embedding the play and novel's events in your memory or if you simply enjoy the act of having a deep interaction with a text. Either way, we'll spend plenty of time playing with these texts as our first units of study.



### Invitation to Notice

- Author's purpose & intended audience
- Point of view and its effect on the reader
- Text structure (chronological, cause and effect, order of importance, flashback)
- Author's choices in language (diction, imagery, symbolism, figurative language, syntax)
- Selection (or purposeful omission) of key details
- Important or powerful diction
- Contrast, irony, or duality

**BONUS ASSIGNMENT (due in the 1st week of school for extra credit; you may complete #1 only or both #1 and #2):**

1. One of the most effective ways to prepare for the AP Literature exam is to read and thoroughly analyze novels, plays, and/or epics of literary merit. One of the Free Response Questions on the exam gives you a prompt (usually connected to theme) and requires you to respond using specific details from a novel, play, or epic. Choose a book to read before school starts; this [blog post](#) can lead you in the right direction. Annotate using the “Invitation to Notice” suggestions above and prepare to write an in-class response to an AP Free Response Question. BE prepared to set an appointment with me to complete your timed writing component to the bonus assignment.
2. Locate a film adaptation for the book you chose for #1. For example, you might read the 1847 novel *Jane Eyre* written by Charlotte Brontë and watch the 2001 film *Jane Eyre* directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga. Take notes as you view; use [Duke University's Writing About Film](#) handout and the [University of Washington's Film Questions](#) handout to guide you. Write a compare/contrast essay analyzing the film director's choices for adapting the book and critiquing the effects of his/her choices. You will submit this to Turnitin.com on the first day of class upon completing the Tech Menu and enrolling in the course's electronic resources.