

**Walter Johnson High School  
Advanced Placement Literature and Composition  
Summer Reading Assignment 2026**

**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 eight 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:**

**REQUIRED:**

**Students will read the short stories “The Dead” and “Eveline” from James Joyce’s short story collection *Dubliners*.**

**Links:**

- *Dubliners* the [text](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dkk9CIUOsDcbmsb432wrCJmt3-21KpQ/view?usp=sharing):  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_dkk9CIUOsDcbmsb432wrCJmt3-21KpQ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dkk9CIUOsDcbmsb432wrCJmt3-21KpQ/view?usp=sharing)
- *Dubliners* [Background](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R6FLrX2a50wl_jZ6oAv-As747iFnHiwE4-b7izgWCvE/edit?usp=sharing):  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R6FLrX2a50wl\\_jZ6oAv-As747iFnHiwE4-b7izgWCvE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R6FLrX2a50wl_jZ6oAv-As747iFnHiwE4-b7izgWCvE/edit?usp=sharing)

Students will take notes on both short stories using the Cornell Notes method. Below are links with information about taking Cornell notes.

**Tips for Notetaking Using Cornell Notes:**

- [Centennial College Youtube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXjpsMKEkXc):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXjpsMKEkXc>
- [Good Notes](https://www.goodnotes.com/blog/cornell-notes): <https://www.goodnotes.com/blog/cornell-notes>

**Your notes should focus on the following:**

- 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 work (PARALYSIS)

**All notes should be handwritten.**

## **Preparing for the Fall:**

Your summer notes are more than an assignment; they are the foundation for our first unit. We will evaluate them for critical insight and evidence-based observation. High-quality notes will be essential for your success on our first two major tasks: an analytical response to “Eveline” during the first week, and a formal Timed Writing (FRQ Style) on “The Dead” in week two.

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## **OPTIONAL:**

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

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

***Nickel Boys* - Colson Whitehead**

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

During the third quarter this coming school year, students will be given a supplemental reading assignment. Students may choose to read either *Never Let Me Go* or *Nickel Boys*. Students are encouraged to read one of the novels over the summer to prepare for this assignment. When reading either novel, students should focus on the narration and narrative techniques.

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

Mrs. MacFadden [melanie.macfadden@mcpsmd.net](mailto:melanie.macfadden@mcpsmd.net)

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Mrs. Remy [alexia.c.remy@mcpsmd.net](mailto:alexia.c.remy@mcpsmd.net)