

A.P. Literature and Composition
Summer Work, 2026
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“Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work.” – Novelist Umberto Eco

I want you to read this summer.

- Please read [Fences](#) by August Wilson, AND one other **fiction** book of your choice.
- You are to complete each assignment, which will be the first three assignments in Q1.
- Failure to complete summer work will make it impossible to earn an A for the semester. But that’s not the point. Read. Enjoy.

Assignment #1 (Terms, due the first day of class)

In AP Lit you will be required to revisit literary devices constantly. Knowing what these devices are, and how to show that they add meaning, is the crux of our work. You are to find and record examples of **15 DIFFERENT literary devices** in *Fences*. [Purdue’s Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) is a great resource, or you can google a list of literary terms for yourself.

Get a spiral notebook for this class, and **hand-write** this assignment in the following format:

Entry # (1-15)

- A. Quotation
- B. Label the device (you need 15 **different** literary devices, no repeats)
- C. Explain the writer’s intended effect on the reader and how it adds meaning.

Example:

1.
 - A. “Some people build fences to keep people out...and other people build fences to keep people in.” (*Fences*, 61)
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. This highlights the different motivations people have for creating boundaries in their lives. Rose wants to build a fence to protect and keep her loved ones close, while Troy's resistance to building the fence reveals his fear of confinement and his desire for freedom.
2.
 - A. And so on...

Assignment #2 (Reader Response, due the first day of class)

Take some real time and consideration in choosing an age-appropriate, level appropriate **fiction** book. This should be a good read. One you'll actually look forward to reading. **NB: Don't pick anything you've been assigned / already read**; also avoid *The Stranger*, *Oedipus The King*, *Frankenstein*, *Macbeth*, *My Antonia*, and *The Canterbury Tales*, as we'll be covering these throughout the year.

Respond with your thoughts and reactions. You can type this one, but please print it out and turn it in by hand. Your reflection should cover the following in a casual, yet intelligent manner.

Figure 1-2 pages:

1. Your book choice title and author
2. Observations, thoughts, and questions
3. 5-7 quotes of importance
4. Connections / Take-aways (These could be to things you have heard, read, seen, experienced, etc. I want you to try to extend the story outside of its pages).

You will be graded holistically on how thoughtful your response is. Do not summarize events; instead, interact with the novel. **Be specific, thorough, and honest.**

Caution: Copying words or ideas from other sources (such as ChatGPT) is plagiarism. Seriously, if you're tempted to cut corners this early on with a book you chose for yourself, you should probably reconsider whether or not you really want to take this class. No shame, but everybody needs to want to be here and be willing to do the work.

Assignment #3 (Analysis, completed in class in the first couple of weeks)

During the first weeks of class you will be given a timed, in class, Free Response Question (FRQ) over *Fences*. The particular question will be taken from a past AP exam and graded against the same standards and criteria as the AP FRQ #3.

To help you prepare, I encourage you to do your own research on the [rubrics for literary analysis](#) (especially FRQ #3, Literary Argument) via CollegeBoard.

Happy summer, and happy reading!