

Summer Enrichment for AP Literature and Composition

What follows is **not required** but we hope you choose to participate!

Brief class overview: The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works (AP® English Literature and Composition Course and Exam Description).

That being said, reputable fiction is our focus! FIRST, consider ...

Our first recommendation is to read at least one work of fiction this summer (but the more, the better, of course). How about picking up ...

- ★ a classic title you've wanted to read but haven't had the time to yet?
- ★ a Pulitzer Prize or Booker-winning title?
- ★ a book that's been made into a movie or series? (read first, then watch!)
- ★ a *New York Times* fiction bestseller from 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025?
- ★ a Women's Prize for Fiction shortlisted title?
- ★ a Goodreads favorite (adult fiction) or a Goodreads challenge?
- ★ a bestselling poetry or short story collection?

Second, add ...

- ★ *Macbeth* is this year's Heart of America Shakespeare Festival play, which runs from June 16 to July 5 in Southmoreland Park, across from the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. What's fun about attending this outdoor play is that you can bring food and drinks (and you'll need chairs/blankets), but we'd also recommend arming yourself with bug spray for the mosquitos who will also be out for blood during the tragedy.
- ★ a book that's been made into a movie or series? (read first, and then watch!)
- ★ A movie or series version of a work of literary merit (you've read or not read): adaptations of works you may (or may not have) read in Lang, such as *the Great Gatsby* and *A Raisin in the Sun*, are great choices, but there are many recent adaptations as well.

Or ... choose one of your teachers' favorites!

- ★ See list on the back side for more options

We are excited to have you on board next year, and we'll be interested to hear from all who chose to partake in summer enrichment. Any questions? Need recommendations? Want to borrow a book? Please stop by or email Mr. Gall (room 406) zdgall@bluevalleyk12.org or Mrs. Harms (room 411) emharms@bluevalleyk12.org.

See you in August!

These titles are often referred to on the AP Lit exam. We've selected from an exhaustive list several titles that we likely won't read in class next year.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain*

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Black Boy by Richard Wright

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Brighton Rock by Graham Greene

Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín

Candide by Voltaire

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Emma by Jane Austen

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

A House for Mr. Biswas by V. S. Naipaul

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad

Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert

Miss Lonelyhearts by Nathanael West

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

Native Son by Richard Wright

Old School by Tobias Wolff

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee*

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Highlighted texts are those that Mr. Gall and Mrs. Harms plan to read this summer. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about one of these great works (or another of your choosing)!

Books that were popular with AP Lit students in 2025-2026:

1984 by George Orwell

All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

Circe by Madeline Miller

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Salt to the Sea by Ruth Sepetys

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

A few of Mr. Gall's favorites (:

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner*

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson

McTeague: A Story of San Francisco by Frank Norris

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson

The Secret History by Donna Tartt

The Talented Mr. Ripley by Patricia Highsmith

True Grit by Charles Portis

Waiting for the Barbarians by J.M. Coetzee

White Noise by Don DeLillo

A few of Mrs. Harms's favorites:

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Atonement by Colm Tobin

The Book Thief by Markuz Zusak

Fences by August Wilson (a play)

The Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (a play)

In Our Time by Ernest Hemingway (short stories)

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Passing by Nella Larsen (a novella)

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry (a play)

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

* indicates it is retired from our school's curriculum and, therefore, may contain objectionable material