

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

(preparation for 12th grade Advanced Placement English)

Hello and welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! Although I am sure all of us are very much looking forward to summer, I am already excited to meet you in the fall. The required summer read is Emily Bronte's 1847 novel *Wuthering Heights*, a story about love, obsession, and revenge.

I strongly recommend you purchase this text if you are able to. This way, you can practice annotation and will have an easier time reflecting back on the text later. There is also an online version of *Wuthering Heights* available. If you can write **in** a book, do it. Get in the habit of annotating your observations. This is a great skill and can help you to stay on track while you read. It also forces you to get in the habit of actively reading, noticing a writer's techniques, and commenting on stylistic practices. The Notice and Note signposts or basic annotation rules (see below) are great places to start if you've never annotated a text before. This should be a **tool to help you remember** the novel when we discuss it in class. Be prepared to take a test regarding *Wuthering Heights* the first week of school as well.

Consider these 6 skills we will focus on in Literature and Composition when reading:

1. Explain the function of **character**.
2. Explain the function of **setting**.
3. Explain the function of **plot and structure**.
4. Explain the function of the **narrator or speaker**.
5. Explain the function of **word choice, imagery, and symbols**.
6. Explain the function of **comparison**.

Please note that I will intermittently check my email over the break. If you have questions, I should be able to respond to you within a week.

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STOP Signposts

As you read, you will want to keep track of significant moments in the story called signposts. These signposts will provide insight into or raise questions about literary elements, such as character development, setting, conflicts, and themes. Please STOP and mark these signposts as you encounter them with a sticky note while reading and take notes about your thinking as you consider each question.

- **Contrasts and Contradictions (or The Moments of Surprise)**
When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements, STOP and ask, "Why is the character doing that?" The answer will help you make predictions and draw inferences about the plot and conflict.
- **Words of the Wiser**
When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, STOP and ask, "What's the life lesson and how might it affect the character?" This lesson is probably the theme of the story.
- **Aha Moment**
When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something, STOP and ask yourself, "How might this change things?" If it is about a problem, it tells you something about the conflict; if it is a life lesson, it tells you something about the theme.
- **Again and Again**
When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, STOP and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening over and over again?" The answer will tell you about the theme and conflict, or will foreshadow what might happen later in the story.
- **Memory Moment**
When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask yourself, "Why might this memory be important?" The answer will tell you about theme and conflict, or will foreshadow what might happen later in the story.
- **Tough Questions**
When a character asks himself a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?" The answer will tell you about the conflict, and help you think about what might happen later in the story.

Annotating Rules

1. **Circle** words you don't understand and write a ? if you are confused or have a question.
2. Underline/highlight key details
3. **Write notes** in the margins
 - Questions
 - Predictions
 - Reflections/Thoughts
4. Write a **one-sentence summary** at the end of each chapter/section
5. Draw a **star** in the margins for memorable quotes, striking lines, and greater human truths. You can also write a short note about why you marked the section in the margins.