

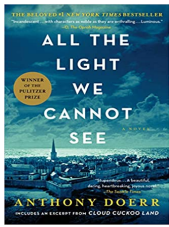
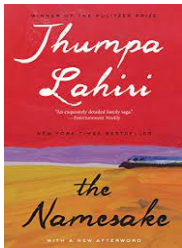
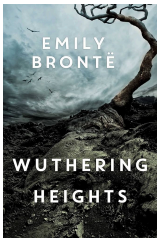
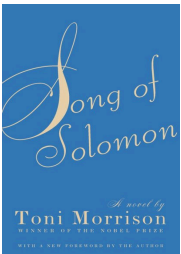
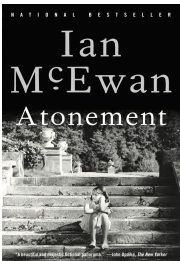
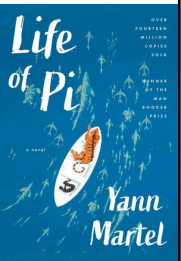
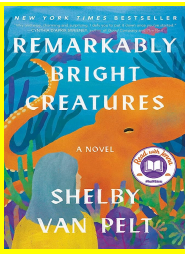
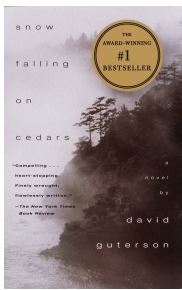
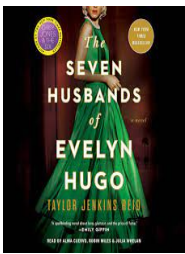
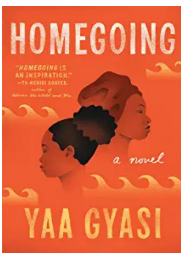
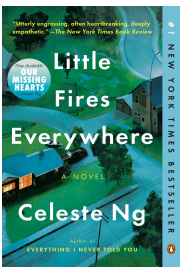
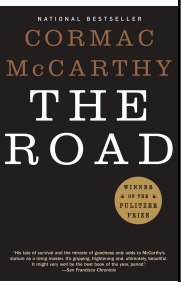
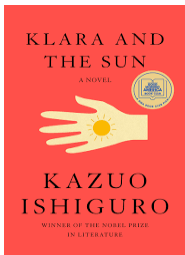
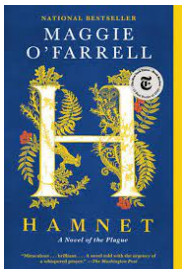
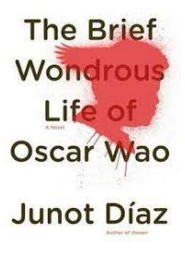
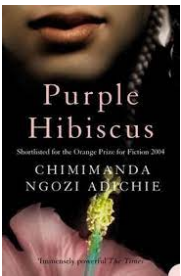
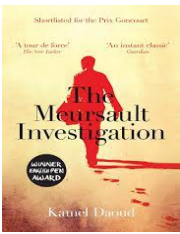
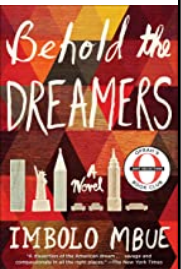
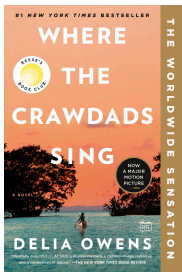
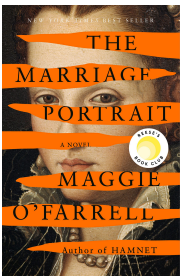
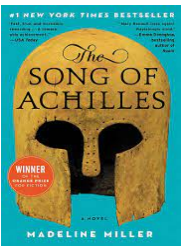
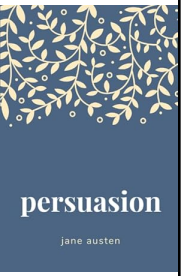
AP LITERATURE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT: SUMMER 2025

AP Literature is all about sharpening your ability to understand and analyze great works of literature—especially how they reflect the social and political events of their time. Just as important, though, is developing a genuine love for reading. In this class, you'll get to dive into novels, plays, and poems—and we hope you truly enjoy it. We also trust that you'll do the reading yourself (no shortcuts like SparkNotes!).

Throughout the year, you'll read a variety of texts, mostly written between the 1800s and today. To help you build the close reading skills you'll need for AP Lit, choose one novel from the list below to read and take notes on.

Many of these books have been used on past AP Lit exams, and you can find them in the public library, online as PDFs, or in the Albert Einstein High School Media Center. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi is also available to borrow from the English Office (Room 121). If you'd rather own a copy, each title is linked to Amazon for easy purchase.

**Each image is linked to Amazon so you can preview the plot, read reviews, and/or purchase your own copy.*

Summer Reading Assignment:

We'll be using your summer reading novel during the first few weeks of the semester as we begin exploring other texts, so it's important to read it over the summer. Be prepared for a **timed essay** in mid-September based on a past AP Lit Q3 "Literary Argument" prompt. For the essay, you'll be allowed **one handwritten page (front and back)** of notes. You won't need to include direct quotes or page numbers in your response. The essay will be worth **30 All-Task points**.

As you read your summer novel, it's strongly recommended that you take detailed notes on the following:

- Key character traits and how major characters grow or change over time
- Important conflicts and relationships between characters, including the challenges they face
- Characters' motivations and decisions, and how those choices impact them and others
- How characters react to their environment and the social norms or expectations around them
- How the characters' actions connect to the novel's central themes

Some ways to engage with the text:

1. **Highlight or circle character names as they appear to help you keep track of who's who.**
2. **Add your thoughts or reactions in the margins as you read.**
3. **Circle any unfamiliar words and jot down their definitions.**
4. **Underline passages that stand out—whether they're well-written, meaningful, or connected to key themes or ideas in the book.**
5. **Mark any parts that resonate with you.**
6. **Ask questions in the margins to help deepen your understanding.**
7. **Write brief summaries of major events in each paragraph or chapter to help keep the plot clear.**

How does this text and task directly connect to the objectives of our course?

The AP Literature exam includes 55 multiple-choice questions (completed in 1 hour) and three literary analysis essays (completed in 2 hours). The third essay, known as the Q3 "open-response", asks you to write about a literary work of your choice in response to a theme-based prompt. For this essay, you won't have the book in front of you, so it's important to know the text well. The novel you choose for your summer reading will be the first one we study in class, and it will help prepare you for this type of essay on the AP exam.

Some recent past Q3 prompts have included:

Writing an essay in which you analyze...

- a character who delays or avoids making a decision
- a character's sense of lacking something important in life
- a character who intentionally creates a new identity
- a rebel character who changes or disrupts the existing state of societal, familial, or political affairs in the text
- characters who accept or reject a hierarchical structure. This hierarchy may be social, economic, political, or familial, or it may apply to some other kind of structure.
- Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often also a burden or a handicap. Select a character from a novel, epic, or play who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem.
- a character holds an "ideal view of the world." Then write an essay in which you analyze the character's idealism and its positive or negative consequences.

If you have any questions or concerns . . .

Email: Ms. Cora Taylor, English Resource Teacher (Cora_N_Taylor@mcpsmd.org)