

## Honors /AP English 4 Summer Reading 2026-2027

Welcome to Honors/AP English 4: Literature and Composition. This summer your task is to focus on developing your personal library to best prepare for the AP Literature test. By immersing yourself in diverse voices and timeless works now, you'll enter the AP Literature exam not just prepared, but confident in your ability to think deeply and write with precision.

Please purchase **at least ONE** of the following options to read, annotate, and critically consider (Students who may need financial assistance should reach out to the Main Office). **Apply annotation skills that you've developed throughout your years in English class and focus on the following: author's craft, diction, narrative structure, organization, setting, figurative devices, poetic devices, character development, and so on.**

**When selecting your book choice(s):** Choose books that jump out at you, not the shortest ones. To do this, read a quick description of each to get a sense of the narrative style, plot, setting and characters. Each of these books has been chosen because they offer insight into a particular culture, mindset, time period, or philosophical worldview. These texts have also appeared multiple times on the AP Literature & Composition exam.

\*\*Some texts include mature content or language that may be difficult for some students.  
Please choose a text with which you are comfortable.

Bring your copy of the book and comprehensive annotations to class on the first day of school (**August 31, 2026**).

Rather than focusing on every single chapter, focus on major sections of the text. Your points of emphasis are:

- **Important character moments**
- **Deliberate authorial choices**
- **Significant literary devices**
- **Emerging thematic elements**
- **Important quotations that contribute to major developments**

1. *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
3. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
4. *Emma* by Jane Austen
5. *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
6. *My Ántonia* by Willa Cather
7. *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
8. *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
9. *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
10. *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
11. *A Lesson before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
12. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
13. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
14. *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
15. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
16. *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

Use whatever annotation method you are most comfortable with to ensure thorough and comprehensible notes for the **summative assessment at the beginning of the year.**

With the limited time we have in this class, you cannot over prepare. It is in your best interest to read more than a single text, but only one is required.