

Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition
Summer Reading

Fiction Assignment -- You will read a total of two books (detailed below) and complete an “Essential Literary Synopsis” for EACH book. When completing the synopses, be sure to fit all of your information in the space provided (do not increase the size of any boxes). I suggest printing out two copies and filling them in by hand, but you can type if you prefer.

Your book choices are:

Book 1 -- Choose ONE of the following works that were written before 1900:

Medea by Euripides (431 BC) [2006 translation by Michael Collier ISBN: 9780195145663]

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (1813)

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens (1859)

The Awakening by Kate Chopin (1899)

Book 2 -- Choose ONE of the following works that were written after 1900:

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller (1949)

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving (1989)

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2003)

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders (2017)

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (2019)

Poetry Assignment -- LIVING POETS

Look up a living poet and explore his or her work. Read as many poems by your chosen poet as you can, and then choose ONE poem and respond to the following prompt (responses should be between 250-500 words. Be concise but not unnecessarily brief):

Philosopher Dewitt Parker wrote in his book The Principles of Aesthetics, “Even when ostensibly directed to some particular person, a poem has an audience which is really universal...Art is autonomous expression meant to be contagious.” How does the poem that you have chosen reflect this universal, contagious nature of art? You may wish to consider the theme, imagery, rhythm, and techniques that the poet employs.

Email me if you have any questions about either of these assignments (both are mandatory)

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Essential Literary Synopsis
(Remember to make a NEW copy for each book)

Title: Author: Date, Place of Publication:	Biographical Notes:
Setting:	Notes on Period / Place of Publication:

Plot Summary:
Meaning of the work as a whole (MOWAAW):
Opening Sentence for Essay:

Style/Characteristic of the work:	Example(s) demonstrating style/characteristic:
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Principal Characters	Adjectives	Role in the work	Significance

Opening Scene, Significance:	Closing Scene, Significance:
Symbols:	Memorable Quotations: