



AP English: Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment

Mr. Balliro

The Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment is a comprehensive study of three works of literary merit (either novels or plays).

- One work must be from the list of books published before 1900.
- One work must be from the list of books published after 1900.
- The third work may be from either list OR a work of literary merit approved by the instructor.
  - This could be a novel, a play, OR a book of poetry (for example, Jelly Roll: A Blues by Kevin Young). Email me, Mr. Balliro, at [jballiro@achs.net](mailto:jballiro@achs.net) or see me before the end of the year to have your third work approved if it is not from the list.
  - **DO NOT ASSUME I WILL SAY YES!** The book you want to read may be on the syllabus for the year.

Complete the assignment **for each novel that you choose:**

Pre-1900 Works	Post-1900 Works
<u>The Awakening</u> by Kate Chopin (1899) <u>Pride and Prejudice</u> by Jane Austen (1813) <i>Medea</i> by Euripides (431 BC) [2006 translation by Michael Collier ISBN: 9780195145663]	<u>A Prayer for Owen Meany</u> by John Irving (1989) <u>Purple Hibiscus</u> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2003) <i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller (1949)

**Assignment:**

Keep a dialectical journal for each work. Dialectical means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments” (dictionary.com). A dialectical journal, then, is used to arrive at the “truth” of a text by engaging in conversation with the written work itself.

Divide your paper into two columns (you may write or type your assignment). As you read, **note 15 passages** in each novel that stand out. In the left-hand column of your paper, record meaningful quotes. Don’t forget page numbers! In the right-hand column, write your critical response to the text. Specifically, your dialectical thinking should include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• making judgements</li><li>• asking questions</li><li>• connecting to real life</li><li>• connecting to other works of literature</li><li>• drawing inferences</li><li>• developing insights</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• comparing and contrasting</li><li>• drawing conclusions</li><li>• predicting consequences</li><li>• analyzing the writer’s use of specific language and rhetorical devices</li></ul>
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