

AP LITERATURE SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

“You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.”

– James Baldwin

Welcome to AP! You made it to the “big time.” When I was in high school, I would be relieved to walk into my AP Lit class. I found it invigorating to be able to talk to my peers about what we were learning, how it made us feel, and how we overall related to the text we examined. Through the literary works we read and the content we cover, we are not simply talking about “English,” but real issues that we encounter in the world we live in.

Now, the stakes are higher. We’re preparing for a test. We have quite a bit of the human condition to critically analyze. Be prepared to be challenged in this class, as you will be writing often and reading with purpose. Yet, if as a group we commit to opening up...to multiple interpretations...to constantly working to improve our writing...to each other, this class may prove to be one of the most valuable academic experiences you will have in your high school career.

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I. Reading Assignments

Students hoping to score high on the AP Literature exam are well-read. The exam’s literary content spans generations, cultures, and historical periods. For this reason, there is a considerable amount of reading material assigned over the summer, including:

- A. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- B. *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- C. Book of choice from the AP Prompt Given (*See Roman numeral II*)

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II. Essay Prompt

You will have one constructed response as your summer writing assignment. Below, you will find the AP Literature “Lit Choice” prompt on the exam from two years ago. The prompt can apply to a wide variety of literary works; therefore, the exam allows you to choose to write your response using one of the books they list **OR** one of your choosing that is NOT on the list. For this assignment, you **CANNOT USE** *Kite Runner* or *Frankenstein*.

AP LIT EXAM 2020 Prompt #3:

In many works of fiction, houses take on symbolic importance. Such houses may be literal houses or unconventional ones (e.g., hotels, hospitals, monasteries, or boats).

Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which a literal or unconventional house serves as a significant symbol. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how this house contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

All Over Creation
All the Light We Cannot See
The Awakening
Beloved
Brown Girl, Brownstones
Death of a Salesman
Elmet
Fences
The God of Small Things
Great Expectations
The Haunting of Hill House
Homegoing
A House for Mr. Biswas
The House of Mirth
The House of the Seven Gables
The House on Mango Street
Housekeeping
Howards End
Jane Eyre
Kindred
Mrs. Dalloway
Native Son
Nervous Conditions
Never Let Me Go

Northanger Abbey
Passing
The Portrait of a Lady
The Professor's House
A Raisin in the Sun
The Remains of the Day
The Round House
Saturday
The Secret Garden
Sense and Sensibility
Sing, Unburied, Sing
A Streetcar Named Desire
Sula
To Kill a Mockingbird
The Turn of the Screw
Uncle Tom's Cabin
Where the Crawdads Sing
White Teeth
Wide Sargasso Sea
Wuthering Heights

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Because these are typically timed responses, your response **SHOULD NOT EXCEED** 2 pages double spaced. Please write in size 12 pt *Times New Roman* font with standard margins.

READ THIS BEFORE WORKING: *Important Considerations:*

1. Consider timing yourself (after reading/developing a solid understanding of your selected work). On the AP LIT exam, you will have about 40 mins per essay. Take this as a practice.
2. The first draft, which is what you are submitting at the start of the school year, is not graded as is (you will get credit for completion, though). You will have the opportunity to edit once you have learned proper structure/other important content.
3. Because you do not have the books with you when you take the exam, this response should **not** include specific quotes or any cited material. Instead, it is all analysis.
4. Your intro should be brief, with a thesis statement.
5. Conclusions are optional.

Submit your response to **Schoology** by the first day of class for credit.

III. Frankenstein Notes Assignment

For this novel, you are required to take notes as you read. You may organize these notes in whatever way you choose, but they must contain the following:

1. Organizational headings, subsections, etc. You can choose to do this by chapter, subject matter, or other sectioning of your choosing.
2. Questions the text raises, and to what extent it answers them.
3. At least 10 concrete details spread across the novel that refer to and/or illustrate the setting, and its significance.

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4. At least 10 places (quotes) spread across the novel that contribute to characterization (of any character).
5. Include one passage that indicates internal conflict and briefly analyze it in writing (small paragraph).
6. First Line/Last Line. After you have finished the novel, reread the first and last lines of the novel. Briefly explain the significance of the lines

While these are minimum requirements, your notes should also be filled with your own observations and analysis. Remember, this is **not** a time to list plot points of every chapter. I have read the book. This is all about significance, takeaways, growth!

You may **submit** your notes as a single type Google Doc to **Schoology**, or, you may scan your handwritten notes. Your notes will be graded on the following:

- Depth of content - evidence of higher-level thinking, attention to detail, reading with a critical lens
- Organization - notes are structured in a way that makes sense, ideas/connections are shown clearly, notes are easy to follow
- Extent to which requirements are met (see above)

Rubric can be found [HERE](#)

IV. Contacting Me

It has been a crazy year, and we all deserve an epic summer despite all this preparation! So, make sure you take time for yourself. Trying to rush all your summer work for this class at the end of August is NOT going to work. A little every few days is a good plan...

You may Schoology message me or email me at wechtlers@glenrocknj.org this summer. I will try to respond promptly.

See you all soon, but not too soon.

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