

AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Lit! We know you must be excited about your upcoming senior year ahead: the challenges of college applications, the excitement of prom, and the last experiences of your high school career. We are glad that we get to be a part of that year, and we too look forward to the challenges of helping you prepare for college and beyond. The Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course itself is a rigorous survey of some of the world's most brilliant authors, and seeks to prepare you with the skills necessary to understand them. This course is designed to expand your analytical and close-reading skills, improve your composition, and open your eyes to new forms of expression. Hopefully, you will discover new writing that you really enjoy in the process.

One of the most important things to understand about this class is that the course **is what you put into it**. Appreciating and understanding literature revolves around effective discussion, and when students are prepared for class discussion, the whole atmosphere of the class changes. You will enjoy the class more, get more out of it, and be more successful, if you do the reading carefully. We promise not to overload you with our expectations, but we expect that you will meet the challenges that we know you are capable of. We want to hear your voice this year, and we want that voice to be informed.

In anticipation of next year's class, you will be reading **two different** novels this summer.

- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin-required
 - If you do not have access to the book, you can access full texts online for free.
 - [Project Gutenberg](#)
 - [Google PDF](#)
- Choose a novel that you believe should be added to literary canon, as in a book that should be taught as literature. This year we are asking you to choose a novel by a person from a community of color or oppressed voice. Here are some but not limited to suggested titles:
 - *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
 - *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead
 - *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith
 - *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
 - *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan
 - *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
 - *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
 - *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
 - *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

We will be looking at these novels in terms of their literary merit. What counts as literary merit, you ask? I'm not going to tell you. As you read, you should actively be seeking to answer that very question: What is literature, really? To prepare for the beginning of the year, you will be completing reading journals on the two above texts.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing this letter to inform you that, as part of the 2020 Summer Assignment for AP English Literature, your son/daughter may be reading Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*. Published in 2000, *White Teeth* is an award-winning novel about multiple generations of three families in London, England and the challenges they face as they attempt to navigate a new, multicultural world. We are writing to inform you of the novel selection because it does contain some foul language and makes mild references to sexual activity. The material is not gratuitous in nature and is thematically relevant to the novel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email, located below our names. Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education and we look forward to working with you and your child next year.

Sincerely,

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AP Literature Teacher

Bergenfield High School

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JOURNAL ENTRIES

For each novel that you read, you will be keeping a reading journal. You must complete one entry for each third of the novel (3 for each novel, 6 in total) - one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end. Each journal must have the following components:

Each Journal Entry - at least 500 Words

LABEL THE SECTION - Page numbers, and identify beginning, middle, or end.

<p><u>Characterization</u> What character traits are being developed in this section? You should log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Character developments involving each major/significant minor character; ▪ New information revealed about or by this character; ▪ The shifting relationships between this character and others. <p>You should have at least one quote directly from the text to demonstrate each of these elements, and each log should have no fewer than three character development elements represented.</p>	<p><u>Imagery, Symbols, Motifs</u> How does the author develop the symbols, imagery, and motifs in this section? Do any devices (rhetorical or literary) dominate this section? You should log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imagery, particularly imagery that has shown up previously ▪ Symbols (either items or characters), particularly symbols that have shown up before; ▪ Motifs, particularly motifs that have shown up previously, as well as how these motifs are developing and/or changing. <p>You should have at least one quote directly from the text to demonstrate each of these elements.</p>
<p><u>Thematic Development</u> How does the author develop his or her key thematic message in this section? You should log:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How the events, characterization, symbolism, or imagery connects to and develops the major thematic message of the text ▪ Explanations and analyses as to how the author develops his or her key thematic message and analyze how the specific examples given in the quotes section contribute to the development. 	<p><u>Plot Events Significant to Thematic Development or Motifs</u> What plot developments are important to the thematic development or the development of the author's motifs? You should log:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Critical plot development that is important to the themes, characterization, symbols and imagery.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is not a location for plot summary, simply a location to recount thematically significant plot developments.</p>

We are staggering the due dates so that the entire assignment is not due at once. The journal entries for your independent novel will be due to Turnitin.com on August 1. The journal entries for *The Awakening* will be due on September 1. Below is the login information for the classes for Mr. Baldwin and Mrs. Hilburn - if you know which class you are registered in, please submit to that Turnitin.com account. If you are unsure, please register and submit to both.

Mr. Baldwin's Class:
Class Code:
Class Password: bears

Mrs. Hilburn's Class:
Class Code:
Class Password: bears

Join Google Classroom today: **3nho42d**

We will be writing an essay in class at the beginning of the year on *The Awakening* as well as your independent novel. This essay will mirror one of the assessments on the AP exam. You will be allowed to use your journals during the essay. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at the following:

Mr. Baldwin: hbaldwin@bergenfield.org
Mrs. Hilburn: ahilburn@bergenfield.org