

Advanced Placement English: *AP Literature and Composition*

Dear AP Literature and Composition Student:

The school's records show that you have enrolled in the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course for next school year. You realize, of course, that your work demands in AP will be greater and more time-consuming because the course is designed to be a college-level curriculum. Below you will find the core reading lists for the course. Notice that **five** of the works are **REQUIRED** summer reading works, to be finished **before** the beginning of the course in September. It is strongly recommended that you take notes (in your handwriting--no typed notes will be accepted) on these works for use on the summer reading evaluations.

A. **Summer Reading:** must be read before the first class in September:

Edward Albee	<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>
Ayn Rand	<i>Fountainhead</i>
George Orwell	<i>1984</i>
Charlotte Bronte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Robert Browning	"My Last Duchess" (dramatic monologue poem)

B. Readings which will be completed during the school year (you may wish to read the core readings for the first time during the summer to get a head start):

Core Readings

Niccolo Machiavelli	<i>The Prince</i>
Robert Bolt	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>
Virginia Woolf	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i>
Henrik Ibsen	<i>A Doll's House</i>
Henrick Ibsen	<i>Enemy of the People</i>

Secondary Readings (to be covered if time permits)

Joseph Conrad	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>
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Obviously, there will be many shorter works read during the AP Literature course, in addition to the core and secondary works listed above.

Also, you will choose at least **THREE** other major works during the school year from the general reading list. These three additional works will be handled by various papers and individual discussions.

We ***strongly recommend*** that you keep **reading notes** while you are reading the summer works (and when reading all works during the school year). The reading notes for Advanced Placement should focus primarily upon setting, plot events, names of primary and secondary characters, and any other pertinent information. In addition, you should record any reactions and questions you have, which will be addressed during class discussion.

Remember, during the first week of class we will be administering a pre-discussion assessment on one of the works, and comprehensive, **fact-based** notes are essential to your success on this evaluation.

We also strongly suggest that you read as much as you can before the start of the school year. Students in the past have found it helpful to buy inexpensive paperbacked copies of the works, so that the copies themselves can be annotated as they are read and as we discuss the works in class. However, you may also borrow copies of the books from any library, as most of these titles are considered "classics."

If you are planning to take the AP examination in May or if you are planning to take any college's or university's test, your score will be determined by how familiar you are with many works and concepts of literature; therefore, if you have additional time and the inclination after you finish reading the assigned works, you should also read the secondary works listed above.

Remember, one of the assumptions of this course is that you are **reading** independently; therefore, all works considered during the year will be considered as a whole, and no in-class reading time will be given. Due dates will be assigned for an entire work, and the dates will be determined irrespective of any other work that you might have.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Hoff

Instructor of AP English **Literature**