

AP English Literature Summer Reading 2014-2015

2015-2016 Prospective AP English Literature Students:

Welcome to AP English Literature! Please read this handout thoroughly, as it contains important information. Part of your success in our class depends on you having a wide range of texts in your reading repertoire, more than we can possibly study fully during the school year. To that end, you will read three books this summer. They will be choices from the categories below. You will not be graded on any note-taking or annotating you do with the texts. However, it will be to your benefit to do so because you will be expected to participate in group discussions and write essays for the texts in the first few weeks of school.

During the summer, everyone must post to my blog at least four times for each work of literature. Instructions will be on the website, and due dates are listed below. <http://jbuboltz.weebly.com/blog>.

Contemporary novel blog comments --	due 7/13/15
19 th century novel blog comments --	due 8/10/15
Drama blog comments --	due 8/31/15

I hope you enjoy the books!

Contemporary Novel (choose at least one, but keep in mind that the more pieces of literature you read, the more prepared you will be for the AP test and college)

<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
<i>Song of Solomon</i>	Toni Morrison
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood

19th Century Novel (choose at least one)

<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Fyodor Dostoyevsky
<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	Mark Twain

Drama (choose at least one)

<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Lorraine Hansberry
<i>A Doll's House</i> (or <i>A Doll House</i>)	Henrik Ibsen
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>	Tennessee Williams

NOTE: Please be aware that because these novels are written primarily for an adult audience, they might contain material that is objectionable to you or your family. All of these titles, however, have been on the AP test in past years and are considered to be works with a great deal of literary merit. If you encounter something offensive to you, try to come to an understanding about why the author would choose to include that material. What purpose does it serve? You don't have to agree with it, but you do have to think about it.

ANOTHER NOTE: Many students are tempted to use Spark Notes or a different online source for novel or play information. While sites such as these might be helpful in clearing up confusion about plot, they should not be used for analysis of symbolism, character, theme, etc. You are MUCH better off developing your own ideas about the works than regurgitating someone else's thoughts. If you are reading closely and asking your own intriguing questions, you will generate more unique ideas than those you can find online.

Unfortunately, I cannot supply you with copies of these books, but they are available through new and used bookstores and libraries. You can often get them used at great prices on the Internet. You might even be able to find full text versions of older novels on websites.

If you have questions or concerns, please see me before the end of the school year. Feel free to contact me via email if questions arise over the summer.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Buboltz - jbuboltz@fruitportschools.net