

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Summer Reading – Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition 2022-2023

Congratulations on your decision to take Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. This is a college level course that will require commitment and hard work. You will take an AP exam at the end of the year that could grant you college English credit. The books that you see on the reading list are available very reasonably on line at www.amazon.com or in a public library. The summer reading program is very important since it will prepare you for the kind of reading necessary during the year, and the evaluation of the assignments counts toward your first quarter grade.

The summer reading assignment consists of two parts.

Assignment #1 – Dialectical Journal Responses for *Jane Eyre* and one free choice.

- Students must keep a record of each book they read in the form of a reading journal. As an AP student, your journal should demonstrate close reading, careful **in-depth analysis and reflection**.
- Reading journals will be due the first day of classes in August. While reading each of the summer requirements, note quotes that follow a theme, then list them in a double entry reading log format as outlined below. A separate journal is to be submitted for each title. Therefore, you will have **two journals**. They may be placed in one folder separated by dividers. These journals must be typed double spaced in Times New Roman 12 font and turned in to turnitin.com
 1. Create two equally long columns. Label the left hand column “Quotes” and the right hand column “Connections.”
 2. Select one quotation for every 30-50 pages depending on the length of the work. As you respond to the quotations, focus on the ways the author uses language to create an effect. What is it about the language that stands out and makes the passage distinctive and/or significant? How does the passage reflect the author’s style and reveal larger themes of this work? The dialectical journals should be constructed in the following manner:

Quote

“Write the quote from the book on the left side of the paper with correct MLA citation” (176)

Response

Your response and analysis of the quote should be written on the opposite side of the page.

For the response column, you have several ways to respond to a text; you

should plan to use one or two responses for each quote:

- Raise a question about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reaction to the passage.
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or a character
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experience
- Argue with or speak to the character or the author

Additionally, because you are asked to read, analyze, explain, and interpret the selections we are reading in the course of the year, it is important that you do not substitute Cliff's notes, Spark Notes, or other summaries or condensations, nor should you rely on movie versions of the books, since they are often edited to appeal to Hollywood tastes and the limitations of movie length. The best way to be successful with this assignment or any other assignment during the next year is to read the books carefully and thoughtfully. The bottom line is that you must do all the reading assignments...therefore, be sure to begin the summer reading early in order to complete the assignments on time.

Assignment #2 Essay response. Due the third day of class in order for you to open your turnitin account.

All essays must be typed in MLA format and submitted to turnitin.com.

A word about plagiarism. DO NOT DO IT. If you are tempted to take a short cut with the required readings and writing assignments, then perhaps this course is not for you. It is patently obvious to a teacher when a student has not done the reading of the real work. AP students should be fully engaged in the requirements of the course, since our goal is to produce academically superior students.

For *Jane Eyre* and one other novel from the list below select a different AP question from the six provided. Write a three –four page essay that answers all parts of the question. A lengthy introduction and conclusion are not required. I am more interested in your ability to formulate a strong thesis and provide specific details for support. In the title of the essay, identify the title of the book and the question number under consideration. Cite all your sources according to MLA guidelines.

For example: Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* – Question 2

AP Response Choices

1. A critic has said that the one important measure of a superior work of literature is the ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. Select a literary work that produces this “healthy confusion.” Write an essay in which you explain the sources of pleasure and disquietude experienced by the readers of this work. Do not base your essay on a movie, television program or other adaptation of any work you choose.
2. Many writers use a country setting to establish values within a work of literature. For example, the country may be a place of virtue and peace or one of primitivism and ignorance. Choose a novel or play in which such a setting plays a significant role; then write an essay in which you analyze how the country setting functions in the work as a whole. Do not simply summarize the plot.
3. In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or a play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
4. A recurring theme in literature is the “classic clash between passion and responsibility.” For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive, or any conflict with moral duty. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay, show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effect on the character, and its significance to the work.
5. Choose a novel or play that depicts the conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.
6. The eighteenth century British novelist, Laurence Sterne wrote “Nobody, but he who felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in contradictory directions at the same time.” From a novel or a play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-developed essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

Review your essay for the following:

1. A clearly defined thesis statement
2. No personal pronouns used
3. The present tense is used consistently, i.e. Steinbeck writes....
4. Textual evidence quoted from the book
5. Active verbs/voice, i.e. Steinbeck explains...not Steinbeck is explaining...
6. Proofread and edited