

## AP English Literature

## Summer Reading Responses

Welcome to AP Literature! This could well be the most intense and challenging English course you'll take in high school. So, to start out, you'll need to do some summer reading and writing.

The reason for this assignment is that for the AP Literature test, the more close reading experience you have, the better. There are no particular books you're expected to have read; rather, it's assumed that you have a wide range of all sorts of books under your belt – including some non-American Lit. You'll note the questions below have to do with examining text at close range. That's what the test (and the course) is all about.

So, read **2 books**, at least one non-American, and **for one of them**, please answer the following questions in typed, double-spaced copy: Always use the "literary present" when discussing literature. Don't summarize the plot! We need literary analysis. **You should come to school on the first day of classes with this written response complete and ready to turn in.**

1. Discuss the author's style and tone in a substantial paragraph. What mood is created? What types of words and sentences are used? Provide an illustrating quotation.
2. What enduring questions does this book raise? Discuss 2 of these with ample explanation and a quotation for each.
3. Identify 3 key characters. Create profiles of their salient characteristics, dispositions, senses of morality, etc. Present a passage to justify your ideas for each character.

**For the second book**, be prepared to present answers to the questions above **orally** (including the quotations – you'll need notes and the text) in the first few days of class. Save the more unusual book for the oral. And, again, be sure to read at least one non-American novel. **Together, the written response and the presentation will count as a major paper grade in the first quarter.**

### The Books:

The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver (American)  
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood  
Emma, Jane Austen  
Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy  
Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert  
Great Expectations, Charles Dickens  
Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte  
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce  
East of Eden, Steinbeck (American)  
Freedom, Jonathan Franzen (American)  
The Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison (American)  
Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy  
A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving (American)

Happy Reading!

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Mrs. Doran and Mr. Flachsbart

**Important Note: Either of the two books you select for this requirement may take the place of the General Summer Reading assignment you receive from Mr. Yavenditti.**