

AP Summer Reading Assignment 2017-18

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, also known as AP English. I am thrilled that you chose to participate in this class and look forward to working on great works of literature throughout your senior, and final, year of high school.

In order to start the year effectively, I am asking that you complete a reasonable amount of reading over the summer break. You will be required to read the following four (4) books:

The Poisonwood Bible, 1998, Barbara Kingsolver

Synopsis: Baptist minister Nathan Price moves his wife and four daughters from Georgia to the Congo in 1959. During a time of political unrest, the family experiences conflict with the villagers they are attempting to “help”. The story is narrated through the eyes of the five women.

The Bluest Eye, 1970, Toni Morrison

Synopsis: A young black girl mocked everyday for her dark skin and curly hair, prays everyday for beauty, yearning for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. This novel is an examination into society’s obsession with physical beauty.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor, 2003, Thomas Foster

You will be required to read Chapter One before the first day of class entitled, “Every Trip is a Quest,” and take notes on the terminology used.

Optional

Their Eyes Were Watching God, 1937, Zora Neale Hurston

After reading *The Poisonwood Bible*, *The Bluest Eye* and the Foster book, choose one of the novels and please write an essay responding to the following prompt:

Show how a character, or characters, from the summer reading books are on a quest. Apply Foster’s terminology of quests and what they represent in the novel.

FCA's

1. Strong introduction and conclusion. Assertive thesis statement at the end of the introduction highlighted in blue. 10 pts.
2. Evidence: Body paragraphs contain strong supporting evidence. Topic sentences and appropriate transitions. Quotes used when necessary to support assertions. 30 pts.
3. Clarity of writing/control of language: errors in spelling and grammar do not distract the reader. 10 pts.

Please bring a typed, double-spaced copy of this essay to class with you on the first day of school. This is your first assignment and is worth 50 points. It will be graded and returned to you.

The following are required purchases for the class as well:

Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature 10th edition (ISBN-978-1-4576-5050-5)

5 Steps to a 5 by Shveta Verma Miller within the first week of school. I have an account at Barnes and Noble and will purchase the book for you at a discounted rate (about \$12.00 compared to \$14.99—depending on whether or not the price stays the same), or you can purchase it yourself. We will be using this book as practice for the multiple choice section of the AP exam.

Additionally, we will be doing some work with these novels and Foster's work in the first week of the semester to help transition into the world of AP Literature and Composition.

Enjoy the books! All are works of literary merit that tell wonderful stories and focus on the female perspective. Please email me with any questions.

Mrs. Praet

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