Friday, May 27, 2016

TO: ALL AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS

FROM: ANGIE LITTERICK, AP ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

RE: SUMMER STUDY & OTHER CLASS NOTES

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of an Advanced Placement class. AP Literature and Composition is a year-long, college-level, intensive study of British and American Literature meant to prepare students for the AP Literature and Composition test given by The College Board in May and provide them an opportunity to earn college credit should they perform well on the test. Students may sign up to take the test when AP test paperwork is distributed in late February. Cost is approximately $85 for each test.

The following is a list of works which you must read/watch and study before school begins next fall. It is expected that you will actively engage with the materials as you read or view them and respond thoughtfully in the related written tasks to show your interaction with the texts. Do not simply depend on study aids (such as Cliffs or Bloohms) to supply you with “answers.” Literature appreciation and analysis is, to cite an old cliché, “a journey, not a destination.”

Please note that taking this course and having an opportunity to earn college credit is a privilege. If you do not satisfactorily complete the summer readings as measured by the quality of your written work and a test given on the first day of class, you will suffer academic consequences as **this part of the course comprises 20% of your 1st quarter grade.** Any work not completed during the summer will receive reduced credit and must be completed by the end of the 1st quarter to receive any credit. Your semester grade will be based on a combination of 1st quarter, 2nd quarter and semester final exam grades.

This course is a very challenging, but rewarding, college-level course. If you are not prepared to work hard and really think deeply about literature, you will neither enjoy nor find much success in this course.

 **Summer Study Materials:**

1. Review the College Board’s course description for AP Literature and Composition as well as the related information (The Exam, Study Skills: Reading, Study Skills: Writing, Sample Questions and Scoring, and any other information on the site you feel is relevant). The website link is listed below: [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub\_englit.html?englit](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_englit.html?englit)
2. \*The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger — Note 4 situations Holden faces or questions he debates in the course of the novel (including key quotes/page numbers) and **reflect on your own experiences** and thoughts in comparable life situations. Minimum 1 page handwritten (1/2 page typed)
3. \*1984 by George Orwell (you may skip Part IX in the novel if you wish—political reading about *The Book*)--Write a one page (both sides handwritten, 1 page typed) response/comment to this novel. Think deeply and philosophically. Why is this book considered a must read for cultural literacy? Can you make any connections to either historical or contemporary issues/situations that relate? Google the term “Big Brother” and discuss what you find. This should be AP level reader response.
4. Read \*Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. Write a one page (both sides handwritten, 1 page typed) comparison of this book and 1984 including which you think is a more effective novel to achieve the author’s purpose.
5. \*Lord of the Flies by William Golding, Choose 4 passages (one approximately from each ¼ of the book) and write out the passage (a few sentences to a brief paragraph) and page number. Be sure not to use passages found on any internet site. Annotate each passage and explain what is happening in the passage (in regard to plot) AND why the passage is a significant in both literary and a thematic concerns.
6. \*Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck. Write a 50 word essay—instructions on handout given at meeting.
7. “Get in touch with the classics”: To enrich your experience of novels considered part of the literary canon, choose ONE of the novels listed below and prepare to demonstrate your understanding of the novel during the first weeks of class. As you read keep a reading journal in which you COMMENT specifically on events and ideas in the novel. DO NOT WRITE A PLOT SUMMARY FOR EACH CHAPTER; rather, comment upon literary aspects that will by their very nature require an understanding of what is going on in the plot. **Use this reading journal to reflect, to connect, to explore, to question** and to show **YOUR thinking** about what you are reading as you go.
	* \*Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
	* Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
	* \*Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
	* Beloved by Toni Morrison
	* \*The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

9. Watch and write a **brief** plot summary and critical commentary (1 side of a sheet of paper) on Shakespeare’s Hamlet (with Mel

 Gibson). You will need to check it out from a library or a video store (or if you watch the PBS channels or AMC, you may find it

 on TV this summer).

10. Plan to attend American Players' Theater in Spring Green, WI on **Wednesday, September 21** to see the play. School provides

 transportation. We leave at 8am and return around 4pm. Cost is $30.

NOTE: (\*) Texts marked with an asterisk on the other side can be checked out from me. You will need to purchase the books listed just as you would in a college course. **BE SURE TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT VERSION BY USING ISBN NUMBERS TO GET THE RIGHT ONE.** I found all of these at amazon.com or betterworldbooks.com but you may check used book stores, university book stores, other online sources, previous seniors or the library (except for the Latin book). The Dictionary is an older version, so you will need to choose a used book on that one for sure, but can go used on any of them.

* **Heart of Darkness** (Norton Critical Editions) by Joseph Conrad and Paul B. Armstrong (Dec 13, 2005) **ISBN-13:** 978-0393926361

**Required Texts to Purchase**

* **English Words from Latin and Greek Elements** by Donald Ayers (Arizona Press 1986) **ISBN-13:** 978-0816508990

**\*\*\*If you have any questions, need to check out a book or have a concern, please email me. I check my email every day or two during the summer and I will get back to you or arrange to have books available to you in the High School Office.** **alitterick@lomira.k12.wi.us**



A sampling of what you have to look forward to in AP English Lit!





“Two things everybody’s got tuh do fuh theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about livin’ fuh theyselves.” Janie in Their Eyes Were Watching God.

“The river seemed to beckon with a dishonouring flourish before the sunlit face of the land a treacherous appeal to the lurking death, to the hidden evil, to the profound darkness of its heart””

Marlow in Heart of Darkness



*“So we beat on, boats against the current borne back ceaselessly into the past.”* Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby.

*"We're gonna have a little house and a couple of acres an' a cow and some pigs and live off the fatta the lan'…An' have rabbits."* George & Lennie in Of Mice and Men.



*“So it goes”* the Trafalmadorians in Slaughterhouse-Five

*“Lord, what fools these mortals be!” Puck in Midsummer Night’s Dream.*





How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch…I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God!”

Victor in Frankenstein

“I’m standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff—I mean if they’re running and they don’t look where they’re going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That’s all I’d do all day. I’d just be the catcher in the rye and all.” Holden in The Catcher in the Rye

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” Pride & Prejudice



Best of luck in your summer reading. Enjoy your intellectual journey!

**“Big Brother is watching you!”** Orwell’s 1984