Tuesday, May 29, 2018

TO: ALL AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS

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 $95 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 Sparknotes, etc.) 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 and ANNOTATE (with markings and comments) the College Board’s course description for AP Literature and Composition as well as the related information Link can be found on my website. This should be handed in as a hard copy the first day of class.

**ALL THE REST OF THIS WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED TO WWW.TURNITIN.COM in order to be accepted.**

**Class ID: 18187400 Enrollment Key: darcy**

1. \*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). The focus is on noting Holden’s experiences and then making full connections to your own experiences or thoughts about the issue.
2. A CHOICE!!!!! Read either ***1984* by Orwell OR *Brave New World*** by Huxley and do the work noted below for your choice:

A. \*1984 by George Orwell (you may skip Part IX in the novel if you wish—political reading about *The Book*) —Write a reflection on this novel… Think deeply and philosophically. Why is this book considered a must read for cultural literacy? Make as many connections to either historical or contemporary issues/situations that relate as you can. Google the term “Big Brother” and discuss what you find. This should be AP level reader response—go beyond the TV show “Big Brother.” Discuss your findings and your opinions on the novels and the issues.

B. Read \*Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. Write a reflection on this novel….think deeply and philosophically. How is this book relevant to our world today? Why is it often referenced in the media and why is it relevant to cultural literary? Google the term “Brave New World” and see what you find beyond the novel itself. Discuss your findings/examples and your opinions on the novel and the issues.

1. \*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.
2. \*Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck. Write a 50 word essay—instructions on handout given at meeting.
3. Watch and write a **brief plot summary** and a more involved critical commentary including its connection to the Disney movie The Lion King on Shakespeare’s Hamlet (with Mel Gibson). You will need to check it out from a library or a video store or find it on line (or if you watch the PBS channels or AMC, you may find it on TV this summer). The focus here in on your commentary not the plot summary as I’ll be looking to see what you can pull out of the play regarding themes and ideas and literary/drama techniques. Remember you are watching this for a literature course… what can you pull out of it intellectually as a reader/viewer.
4. “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. I should be able to see your thinking as you work through the ideas/story of the novel. Opinions encouraged!
	* \*Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
	* Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
	* \*Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
	* \*The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
	* Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
	* Catch 22 by Joseph Heller

8. Plan to attend American Players' Theater in Spring Green, WI on **Tuesday, October 2** to see the play. School provides

 transportation. We leave at 8am and return around 4pm. Cost is $35

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