Monday, June 1, 2020

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 online in the fall. 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: 24988650 Enrollment Key: darcy**

1. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston—Complete Study Guide Questions. I will email you the file.
2. Old Man and the Sea by Earnest Hemingway. Reflect on the following questions:

A. Do you like or dislike this book? Support your opinion/reaction with specific reasons/details tied to novel.

B. Explain why this book could be considered more than a story about a guy going fishing.

1. Watch and/or read Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller. Reflect on the following questions:

A. Which character do you like the most? Which character do you dislike the most? Which character do you feel most sorry for? Explain and support your reaction/opinion.

B. Compare Willie’s dream to others’ dreams. Pick a character from a different book or movie or even real life who has a dream and discuss similarities and differences and what happens to their dreams.

1. \*The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger — Note 3 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 or moral reflections. Minimum (1/2 page typed). The focus is on noting/identifying Holden’s experiences and then making full connections to your own experiences or thoughts about the issue.
2. A CHOICE!!!!! Read ONE! Read either ***1984* by Orwell OR *Brave New World*** by Huxley and do the work noted below for your choice:

A. Pick out a moment or line in the text that was especially vivid/moving/memorable for you and EXPLAIN why this impacted you/stuck in your mind. This is personal reflection and response. Then, explain how this moment/line connects to the theme/message or larger issue of the text.

B. Explain you reaction to the ending of the novel. How did you feel about it? What sticks with you? Is it a successful way to end the book given the theme/message and what has happened in the book as a whole? Explain your thoughts.

1. Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck. Answer the following questions:

A. Do you like George or Lennie better? Why?

B. Why must the novel end the way it does? Go beyond mere plot to think about all the angles of this question(such as theme/character/foreshadowing, etc.)

**NOTE: Most of these questions/assignments ask your opinion on the text/characters/situation. It does not matter what opinion you have, but rather how well you support your opinion or reaction with meaningful information and connection to the text that reflects your comprehension and willingness to engage with the text and its larger ideas and writing craft.**

AP LIT SUMMER WORK INFO….CONTINUED

**Required Texts to Purchase**

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

Note: Previous years’ students may be more than willing to sell you these books, so you may want to ask around—or you can order them new or uses on amazon or other book sites.

**\*\*\*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**](mailto:alitterick@lomira.k12.wi.us)

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

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“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



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*“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.

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

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

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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

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

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