

Name _____

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AP English Literature

Summer Reading Assignment 2019

The AP English Literature student loves to read—and read, and read, and read. As such, choose at least TWO works of imaginative literature from the suggested AP bound drama and fiction list located on the Blind Brook MS/HS library website homepage. One of these works must be at least 250 pages long.

When looking at the site, plan and list the titles that are of interest to you. While you are asked to read at least two books from the list, you will continue to read in book groups throughout the year, and should read as much as possible. AP students are those who always go above and beyond. You may choose books outside of this list, though it is preferred that you find those of equal literary merit. Speak to your parents, teachers, library media specialists, members of the Book Club, former AP Literature students, and avid readers about titles to find those you might most enjoy. Then, begin reading, and read, and read, and read.

In a separate notebook, take notes on passages you feel are significant, make you question the text, and/or fill you with awe. These notes will be beneficial to you throughout the course, and particularly as you review for the exam next May.

The American Library Association has found that “The amount of free reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to achievement in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general information. Students’ reading achievement correlates with success in school and the amount of independent reading they do.”*

Once you return in September, the works you have read will be used in response to a practice AP essay. This will set a benchmark for the skills you will need to practice. As an AP Literature student, here are some ideas to think about as you read. They will fuel our discussions throughout the year:

- What constitutes “literary merit”?
- What makes a novel, play, or poem a work of art?
- How does a character embody moral ambiguity?
- What constitutes complexity in a novel, play or poem?
- How do race, gender, and class affect the characters and setting within the work?
- How does each scene in the novel or play reflect the work as a whole?

Enjoy!

* (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding 1988; Guthrie and Greaney 1991; Krashen 1993; Cunningham and Stanovich 1991; Stanovich and Cunningham 1993)

The following works are those which we will most likely read together. Please choose other works for your summer reading.

The Color Purple

Hamlet

Great Expectations

The Scarlet Letter

Twelfth Night

The Glass Menagerie