

# AP English Literature Summer Reading

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is a fun, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info. All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the first day of school. I may not ask for a submission right away, but in case I do, you should be ready!

## Assignment 1: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/search/?type=poem>

Much of our studies will revolve around poetry. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of “great poetry.” **Select a poem that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP English Literature. You may choose from the website listed above or find a poem on your own. Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a “great” poem.** I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no “wrong answer!” \*You will turn this in as an assignment on Google Classroom.

## Assignment 2: Choice Read of Literary Merit (Written Reflection Required)

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP English exam. Select a title to read over the summer. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with “literary merit,” although they never define that label. **Choose a novel or play to read this summer that, in your opinion, has literary merit. Then, upon completion, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what that phrase means to you, and why this novel or play has literary merit.** You may read this book yourself. Please do not re-read something or choose something below your reading level. \*You will turn this in as an assignment on Google Classroom.

## Assignment 3: Choice Read #2

In preparation for our first week of written analysis, you need to select one title off of the approved list and read it over the summer. Some titles are very long, but others are quite short, so there is no reason not to complete this assignment. **You must choose from the provided list. Write a fifteen-entry dialectical journal in response to this novel.**

Overall, you are required **to read two books** this summer in preparation for AP Lit. I urge you to read texts that are challenging, diverse, and different from what you normally read.



## Books to Choose From for Assignment 3

800 BC – *The Iliad* – Homer

- 800 BC – *The Odyssey* – Homer  
1759 – *Candide* – Voltaire  
1811 – *Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen  
1813 – *Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen  
1823 – *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley  
1838 – *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens  
1847 – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë  
1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë  
1850 – *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne  
1861 – *Silas Marner* – George Eliot  
1869 – *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott  
1884 – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain  
1897 – *Dracula* – Bram Stoker  
1891 – *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde  
1899 – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin  
1902 – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad  
1903 – *The Call of the Wild* – Jack London  
1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton  
1915 – *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka  
1925 – *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald  
1925 – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf  
1932 – *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley  
1937 – *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston  
1937 – *Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck  
1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck  
1940 – *The Power and the Glory* – Graham Greene  
1945 – *Animal Farm* – George Orwell  
1949 – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell  
1951 – *The Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger  
1952 – *Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison  
1952 – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck  
1953 – *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury  
1954 – *Lord of the Flies* – William Golding  
1958 – *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe  
1959 – *A Separate Peace* – John Knowles  
1960 – *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee  
1967 – *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok  
1969 – *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou (non-fiction)  
1969 – *Slaughterhouse-Five* – Kurt Vonnegut  
1970 – *Grendel* – John Gardner  
1976 – *A River Runs Through It* – Norman Maclean  
1977 – *Song of Solomon* – Toni Morrison  
1984 – *The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros  
1985 – *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood  
1987 – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison  
1989 – *A Prayer for Owen Meany* – John Irving  
1990 – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien  
1992 – *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt  
1994 – *In the Lake of the Woods* – Tim O'Brien  
1996 – *Into the Wild* – John Krakauer (non-fiction)  
1996 – *Push* – Sapphire  
1997 – *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier  
1997 – *The Red Tent* – Anita Diamant

**1997** – *Memoirs of a Geisha* – Arthur Golden  
**1998** – *The Poisonwood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver  
**1998** – *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood  
**2001** – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan  
**2003** – *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini  
**2001** – *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel  
**2002** – *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri  
**2005** – *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* – Kim Edwards  
**2005** – *The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Wells (non-fiction)  
**2005** – *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Jonathan Safran Foer  
**2006** – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy  
**2008** – *Serena* – Ron Rash  
**2008** – *Little Bee* – Chris Cleave  
**2010** – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot (non-fiction)  
**2010** – *Room* – Emma Donoghue  
**2012** – *Salvage the Bones* – Jesmyn Ward  
**2013** – *The Goldfinch* – Donna Tartt  
**2014** – *Americanah* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
**2014** – *All the Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr  
**2014** – *A Man Called Ove* – Fredrik Backman  
**2015** – *Go Set a Watchman* – Harper Lee  
**2015** – *The Nightingale* – Kristin Hannah  
**2017** – *Sing, Unburied, Sing* – Jesmyn Ward  
**2017** – *Born a Crime* – Trevor Noah (non-fiction)  
**2018** – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Delia Owens  
**2019** – *Little Fires Everywhere* – Celeste Ng

**Suggested Plays:**

*Antigone* – Sophocles  
Any Shakespearean play  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* – Tennessee Williams  
*The Crucible* – Arthur Miller  
*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller  
*A Doll's House* – Henrik Ibsen  
*An Enemy of the People* – Henrik Ibsen  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde  
*Our Town* – Thornton Wilder  
*Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett

## **Choice 2 books—Popular AP Reads**

### **Ancient Texts**

**800 BC** – *The Iliad* – Homer

**800 BC** – *The Odyssey* – Homer

### **Neoclassical**

**1722** – *Moll Flanders* – Daniel Defoe

**1726** – *Gulliver’s Travels* – Jonathan Swift

**1749** – *Tom Jones* – Henry Fielding

**1759** – *Candide* – Voltaire

### **Romantic**

Any novel by Jane Austen

**1823** – *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley

### **Victorian**

Any novel by Charles Dickens

**1847** – *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë

**1847** – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë

**1850** – *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne

**1851** – *Moby Dick* – Herman Melville

**1856** – *Madame Bovary* – Gustave Flaubert

**1866** – *Crime and Punishment* – Fyodor Dostoevsky

**1871** – *Middlemarch* – George Eliot

**1877** – *Anna Karenina* – Leo Tolstoy

**1881** – *The Portrait of a Lady* – Henry James

**1884** – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain

**1886** – *The Mayor of Casterbridge* – Thomas Hardy

**1891** – *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* – Thomas Hardy

**1891** – *Billy Budd* – Herman Melville

**1895** – *Jude the Obscure* – Thomas Hardy

**1898** – *The Turn of the Screw* – Henry James

**1899** – *The Awakening* – Kate Chopin

### **Naturalist**

**1900** – *Sister Carrie* – Theodore Dreiser

**1900** – *Lord Jim* – Joseph Conrad

**1902** – *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad

**1906** – *The Jungle* – Upton Sinclair

**1911** – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton

### **Modern**

**1915** – *The Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka

**1916** – *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* – James Joyce

**1920** – *The Age of Innocence* – Edith Wharton

**1924** – *A Passage to India* – E.M. Forster

**1925** – *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald

**1925** – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf

**1926** – *The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemingway

**1929** – *The Sound and the Fury* – William Faulkner

**1930** – *As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner

**1932** – *Light in August* – William Faulkner

**1932** – *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley

**1937** – *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston

**1939** – *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck

**1940** – *Native Son* – Richard Wright

**1947** – *All the King’s Men* – Robert Penn Warren

**1948** – *Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton

**1949** – *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell

### **Post Modern**

**1951** – *The Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger

**1952** – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck

**1952** – *Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison

**1952** – *Wise Blood* – Flannery O’Connor

**1953** – *Go Tell it on the Mountain* – James Baldwin

**1958** – *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe

**1960** – *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee

**1961** – *Catch-22* – Joseph Heller

**1966** – *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys

**1972** – *Bless Me, Ultima* – Rudolfo Anaya

**1973** – *Sula* – Toni Morrison  
**1977** – *Ceremony* – Leslie Marmon Silko  
**1977** – *Song of Solomon* – Toni Morrison  
**1981** – *Obasan* – Joy Kogawa  
**1982** – *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker  
**1985** – *The Handmaid’s Tale* – Margaret Atwood  
**1987** – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison  
**1990** – *The Things They Carried* – Tim O’Brien  
**1992** – *All the Pretty Horses* – Cormac McCarthy  
**2001** – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan  
**2003** – *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini  
**2006** – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy  
**2008** – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* – Khaled Hosseini  
**2012** – *Salvage the Bones* – Jesmyn Ward  
**2012** – *Purple Hibiscus* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
**2014** – *All the Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr  
**2014** – *Americanah* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
**2017** – *Homegoing* – Yaa Gyasi  
**2018** – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Delia Owens

### **Suggested Plays:**

Any Shakespearean play  
*Antigone* – Sophocles  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* – Tennessee Williams  
*The Crucible* – Arthur Miller  
*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller  
*A Doll’s House* – Henrik Ibsen  
*An Enemy of the People* – Henrik Ibsen  
*Equus* – Peter Shaffer  
*Fences* – August Wilson  
*The Glass Menagerie* – Tennessee Williams  
*Hedda Gabler* – Henrik Ibsen  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde

*Major Barbara* – George Bernard Shaw  
*Medea* – Euripides  
*Mrs. Warren’s Profession* – George Bernard Shaw  
*Murder in the Cathedral* – T.S. Eliot  
*The Piano Lesson* – August Wilson  
*A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* – Tom Stoppard  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* – Tennessee Williams  
*Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett  
*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* – Edward Albees