AP English 12 – Andersen

2020 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Advanced Placement students and parents:

Welcome to the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition class for next year. This is a demanding, college-level course designed to develop exceptionally skilled readers and writers. I look forward to working with you to prepare you for the Advanced Placement exam in May (additional fee of approximately $93) and to engaging you in a rich and hopefully enjoyable analytical study of literature. I expect that you, too, will bring to our study an enthusiasm for learning and a work ethic that will drive you to meet every mental challenge with alacrity.

You should anticipate on-going reading assignments, timed, in-class essays, frequent graded discussions, a study in Cultural Literacy, a major project/presentation each quarter, and a year-long personal anthology project. As this class will resemble a university course, you should expect to spend 1 to 1 ½ hours each night on reading and writing assignments. Though you will need to work hard to succeed, you will not only be better prepared for college studies, you also stand to gain college credit should you score well on the AP Examination. Returning PGHS alumni cite their experiences in AP courses as the best preparation they received for the challenges they meet in college.

To prepare for our first few weeks of school (whatever they may look like), I would like for you to complete the assignments listed on the attached page. You can expect discussion, quizzes, and/or writing assignments to evaluate your summer efforts. Please do not put off these assignments until the weekend before we return to school. You will not be well-prepared, and it will show. All assignments are due on THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS unless otherwise noted.

It’s been a strange and troubling spring, and we don’t know exactly what awaits us for the fall, but we are going to move ahead and plan for an awesome year together! The books listed are readily available at local libraries and bookstores AND can be found online if you google the title and “free download.” Please let me know as soon as possible if you have trouble locating the books. You are welcome to borrow copies from me (at least of the two required titles), but it would be helpful to know how many copies I need to provide for pick up, and do know that you will be held responsible for their safe return in September. Enjoy your summer; enjoy these assignments (?!); and enjoy some thoughts of your upcoming senior year! If you have any questions prior to the beginning of school, you may leave a message for me at (804) 733-2720 or (your best bet) email me at bandersen@pgs.k12.va.us, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Otherwise, I hope to see you in September.

Sincerely,

Beth Z. Andersen

AP English Literature and Composition Teacher

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. a) Read *1984* by George Orwell

b)  **As you read, keep a reading journal**. I recommend a dialectical/double-entry journal as it reminds you to not only make note of significant quotations, literary devices (like symbols, allusions, and stylistic choices), but *also* to provide your commentary on what you encounter (not just WHAT you see or think is important, but HOW or WHY it is important). If you have never done a dialectical journal before, don’t panic; either use an alternative organizational technique or give it your best shot and email me with your questions. I am not putting a formal length requirement on your journal, but I will be checking to see that you have kept such notes for the entire text (a practice that should become 2nd nature to you as you read anyway). If you type your journal, I will want an electronic copy AND a hard copy. Most students choose to keep the journal in a spiral notebook; it doesn’t need to be bigger than a single-subject.

NOTE: Remember that if you include any “insights” in your journal that are anything less than original (i.e. – something cool you find online that you include in your journal), you MUST CITE the sources consulted. If you don’t, I will know it, and you will receive a zero on the assignment – not a great way to start the year. Getting a little help isn’t wrong if you acknowledge the assistance; however, know that I am most interested in YOUR ideas.

c.) Conduct some informal research on the background of the novel and its social and political context in order to better understand and prepare to discuss Orwell’s social commentary.

1. Read *The Grapes of Wrath.*  I know that it is long, but the reading is not difficult. I will not be collecting a journal for this novel, but that is partially to help you preserve your energies so that you will actually read! I do encourage you to keep reading notes or at least tab your book to keep track of important events, literary and stylistic insights you might have, and important questions that you don’t want to forget before discussion. You will have assignments the first week of school that will demonstrate whether or not you have read and will appropriately reward your effort.
2. a) Read a third novel of your choice from the attached list. These texts have been chosen for their literary weight or richness and for their ability to aid you in preparing for and completing a national literature exam. Choose something you have not read, and discuss your choice with a parent or guardian. While you are not required to purchase the book and should be able to find copies of most of these texts at local library, I personally appreciate having my own copy of a book so that I can write in the margins and highlight as I see fit. Sticky notes can also be helpful to mark important passages or things you question.

b) I again recommend that you keep reading notes, but I will not be collecting them, nor will you use them in

discussion, as most people will be reading different texts. You should, however, be prepared to write a critique of

the work and to prepare a project based on the novel that I will assign when we return to school.

c) If there is a work of comparable literary merit that you would like to read but do not see on the list, please send

the title and author to me for potential approval.

1. Read and respond to the AP English Literature prompt.

**SUGGESTED TIT­LES:**

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

*Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley

*Catch*-22 – Joseph Heller

*Sons and Lovers* – D.H. Lawrence

*To the Lighthouse* – Virginia Woolf

*An American Tragedy* – Theodore Dreiser

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* – Carson McCullers

*Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut

*Native Son* – Richard Wright

*Winesburg, Ohio* – Sherwood Anderson

*Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Patton

*A Passage to India* – E.M. Forster

*The Wings of the Dove* – Henry James

*Tender is the Night* – F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Good Soldier* – Ford Madox Ford

*A Handful of Dust –* Evelyn Waugh

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

*The Kitchen God’s Wife –* Maxine Hong Kingston

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey –* Thornton Wilder

*A Farewell to Arms –* Ernest Hemingway

*Light in August –* William Faulkner

*A House on Mango Street –* Sandra Cisneros

*Pale Fire –* Vladimir Nabokov

*On the Road –* Jack Karouac

*The Maltese Falcon –* Dashiell Hammett

*The Age of Innocence –* Edith Wharton

*My Antonia –* Willa Cather

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

*A Clockwork Orange –* Anthony Burgess

*Of Human Bondage* – W. Somerset Maugham

*100 Years of Solitude* – Gabriel Garcia Marquez

*Tobacco Road* – Erskine Caldwell

*Sophie’s Choice* – William Styron

*Crime and Punishment* – Fyodor Dostoevsky

*All Quiet on the Western Front* – Erich Maria Remarque

*Madame Bovary* – Gustave Flaubert

*Dr*. *Jekyll and Mr. Hyde –* Robert Lewis Stevenson

*Cane –* Jean Toomer

*You Can’t Go Home Again –* Thomas Woolf

*The Illiad* – Homer

*Moby Dick* – Herman Melville

## The Palace of the Peacock- Wilson Harris

*Sula*  or *The Bluest Eye –* Toni Morrison

*The Fountainhead* or *Anthem –* Ayn Rand

*The Color Purple –* Alice Walker

*Tess of the D’Urbervilles –* Thomas Hardy

*Anna Karenina –* Leo Tolstoy

*The Count of Monte Cristo –* Alexandre Dumas

*The Life of Pi –* Yann Martel

*The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd

*The Things They Carried* - Tim O’Brien

*Ceremony* - Leslie Marmon Silko

*The Shipping News* – Annie Proulx

*A Lesson Before Dying* – Ernest Gaines

*The Poison wood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver

*The Crossing* – Cormac McCarthy

*The Kite Runner* –Khaled Hosseini

# The Convergence of the Twain

*(Lines on the loss of the “Titanic”)*

**I**

     In a solitude of the sea

     Deep from human vanity,

And the Pride of Life that planned her, stilly couches she.

**II**

     Steel chambers, late the pyres

     Of her salamandrine fires,

Cold currents thrid, and turn to rhythmic tidal lyres.

**III**

     Over the mirrors meant

     To glass the opulent

The sea-worm crawls—grotesque, slimed, dumb, indifferent.

**IV**

     Jewels in joy designed

     To ravish the sensuous mind

Lie lightless, all their sparkles bleared and black and blind.

**V**

     Dim moon-eyed fishes near

     Gaze at the gilded gear

And query: “What does this vaingloriousness down here?”. . .

**VI**

     Well: while was fashioning

     This creature of cleaving wing,

The Immanent Will that stirs and urges everything

**VII**

     Prepared a sinister mate

     For her—so gaily great—

A Shape of Ice, for the time far and dissociate.

**VIII**

     And as the smart ship grew

     In stature, grace, and hue

In shadowy silent distance grew the Iceberg too.

**IX**

     Alien they seemed to be:

     No mortal eye could see

The intimate welding of their later history.

**X**

     Or sign that they were bent

     By paths coincident

On being anon twin halves of one August event,

**XI**

     Till the Spinner of the Years

     Said “Now!” And each one hears,

And consummation comes, and jars two hemispheres.

-[Thomas Hardy](https://www.poets.org/node/44707)

ESSAY PROMPT:

Carefully read the poem above. Then, taking into consideration the title of the poem, analyze how the poetic devices convey the speaker’s attitude towards the sinking of the ship. You are encouraged to take no more than an hour for the assignment.