**12 AP English Literature and Composition: Summer 2016 Assignment**

English 12 AP offers an accelerated program designed to prepare students for the AP Literature test. It is meant for students that *desire* a more comprehensive and intensive experience with literature. The course requires initiative, effort, and independence. You will have to engage in reading and writing outside of the classroom at least as many hours as you engage in classroom work.

**Assignment One: Reading Journal:** You will keep a journal that reflects a close reading of a novel from the included list. Unlike journals you may have written, this assignment is based more on analysis rather than personal reflection. Unlike the essays we will write in class, this is not an assignment that is asking you to build a cohesive argument around a thesis. Your journal should be divided into the following sections in order:

* Interpretation (Page Minimum: 3): The official AP course guide describes this as “the analysis of literary works through close reading to arrive at an understanding of their multiple meanings.” This section can include analysis on events, characters, symbols, motifs, themes, or quotes. This is also the place to include any possible questions you have about the text with proposed answers. This should be analysis, not summary. Also keep in mind that you will not cover every part of the novel in three pages; provide a close analysis of fewer items rather than a superficial analysis of many items.
* Context (Page Minimum: 1): Provide some explanation and commentary on the historical and biographical context surrounding the novel and how the novel might reflect or comment on that context. This can include a discussion of the novel’s possible social and cultural relevance and impact. This section will require some basic research. Cite all sources. Make sure your research is of high academic standards (look to the databases provided on the library’s website).
* Form (Page Minimum: 1): Evaluate the form of the writing and the author’s style, including but not limited to diction, sentence structure, and the organization/structure of the entire book.

Your journal should be thoughtful, insightful, original, and well written. While you will divide your work into sections—and please label the sections—each of those sections should contain fully developed and coherent paragraphs. Pay attention to the page requirements for each section. You should provide (and cite) relevant quotes, but the quotes should not make up even a quarter of any given section of the journal. Your journal must be typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins. All relevant parts must be in MLA format (header, heading, citations, works cited, etc.).

Some warnings:

* Proofread—points will be deducted if you do not spell correctly or do not write complete sentences.
* I will be strict about MLA—use Purdue’s Online Writing Lab as a resource.
* Include a Works Cited page, citing your primary and secondary sources.
* Cite correctly.
* Make sure all of your claims are supported.
* Do not sacrifice clarity in an effort to sound more academic.

Read and journal on one novel from the following list. Choose a book you have not previously read.

* *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
* *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
* *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin
* *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
* *A Bend in the River* by V.S. Naipaul
* *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce
* *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton
* *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

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Journals will be collected on the FIRST DAY of class and graded (a significant part of your 1st quarter grade) and will be turned in to turnitin.com during the first week of school. Keep an electronic copy of your journal for yourself as well. You will also complete a separate writing assignment about the book you choose to read, so be sure to preview the novels and choose one that is appropriate for you and interests you.

**Assignment Two: *Mythology***

Much of our culture and literature has been influenced by Greek mythology, and it will benefit you to have some familiarity with the stories of the gods and heroes. In order to complete this assignment, you will need to obtain a copy of Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* and read the following sections:

* Introduction to Classical Mythology
* All of Part One: The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes (Chapters 1-4)
* You should take notes/create a study guide; you will be tested on the material early in the school year.
* You will also be expected to continue your study of mythology throughout the first semester, so you may want to read ahead (to save time during the school year)

**Supply List:**

* A way to keep and transfer electronic files (email or USB flash drive)
* Notebook (at least one that will be kept in class for various assignments) and a folder
* Pencils and black and/or blue pens
* A box of tissues or a bottle of hand sanitizer
* You will be asked to obtain copies of novels for independent assignments
* You will be asked to obtain at least one novel for class

**Contact information:** davina\_copsy@rockbridge.k12.va.us

Please email me with any questions you may have about the assignments, book acquisitions, or the course.