

Summer Reading for AP Literature

In preparation for taking AP Literature next year, you have three reading assignments to complete over the summer. **You will need to secure your own copies of your summer reading books.** You will likely want to purchase hard copies so that you can annotate for later reference in class. Downloading books on an e-reader is also an option. If you choose to borrow books or check them out from a library, **make sure you can renew them to have access in class.**

**** Required Reading Selection – *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Though most of you have already read this novel in ninth grade, you likely have not read it with sufficient maturity to truly understand and appreciate it. While reading (or re-reading), annotate with the following conventions in mind so that you can discuss them in class. You should be prepared for *Gatsby* analysis in the first two weeks of school.

1. Allusions...to the bible, mythology, fairytales, etc.
2. Social class as a factor in the plot
3. Geography, weather, seasons as symbolic
4. Gender inequality
5. Issues of race
6. Unintended effects of Prohibition

****Required Reading Selection - *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini**

You will have your first open-ended AP timed writing on this novel within the first two weeks of school. There is also a multiple choice test on it within the first two weeks. You will need to **thoroughly** prepare the novel so that you will be able to write analytically on an AP prompt (not given before the timed writing). Please read it **during the summer** so that you do not fall behind.

****Additional Reading Selection – Choose ONE of the following novels:**

In our first unit of the year, we will explore common literary conventions employed by canonical writers. You will use your chosen text as the basis for a project where you will apply the common literary devices to your novel. While reading your chosen novel, consider theme and literary devices used to convey that theme.

These novel titles change every year.

Educated by Tara Westover When you order this from Amazon, take a look at the number of prizes this book has won. I stumbled upon it two summers ago, and I've read it three times. It's fascinating. Here's what Amazon has to say: *Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life.*

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward I discovered this book when one of my students read it for summer reading required by Duke University for all freshmen. Again, another winner of many literary prizes. I think you will enjoy it.

"The heart of Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* is story—the yearning for a narrative to help us understand ourselves, the pain of the gaps we'll never fill, the truths that are failed by words and must be translated through ritual and song...Ward's writing throbs with life, grief, and love, and this book is the kind that makes you ache to return to it."
Amazon.com

***The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris** This work of historical fiction makes you see the fortitude of Holocaust survivor Dale Sulukov. Fascinating read; I thought it was fiction throughout most of the book, then realized it was based on a real person at the end.

***Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.** This is a powerful novel about a young woman who is working to overcome incredible loss and mistreatment in her childhood. Light and entertaining at moments, it nonetheless leaves great impact. I listened to it on Audible and enjoyed the Scottish accents.

***Boy Erased* by Gerrard Conley.** This book chronicles the experience of a young man who was forced into gay conversion therapy because of his deeply religious background. The New York Times bestselling memoir is about identity, love and understanding

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.** I just finished this amazing book which will appeal to naturalists and environmentalists. Owens tells the story of a young girl abandoned in the North Carolina swamp and how she survives. There's a murder and mystery element as well.

Your selection from the seven books above will be the basis for one of the following projects. I'm including the projects in case you want to work on them over the summer.

1. **Scrapbook.** Think about all the kinds of mementos you would put in a scrap book if you had one. Then create a scrap book for your character, cutting out pictures from magazines or drawing the mementos he or she would have in a scrap book. Think about Willie in *The Crazy Horse Electric Game* by Chris Crutcher. He would probably have something in his scrapbook to represent his baby sister, his love of baseball, his accident, his experiences in L.A., and so on.

2. **Matchbook Project**

Take a Manila Folder. On the outside write the name of the book and the author, and include a large illustration. On the inside, take 9-12 index cards. Fold them like the picture, and write the chapter title at the bottom, and draw a picture on the larger flap. On the inside, write a one-sentence summary of this part of the novel. You can divide into chapters, but if that doesn't work out well, you can divide into segments and draw



your pictures and write your summaries.

3. **Visual 2D or 3D artwork:** Any piece of visual art such as a painting or sculpture that provides an indepth interpretation of one of the novel's themes or motifs.
4. **Change the ending**—If the book didn't end the way you wanted it to, and most books don't, then change the ending! Make it happy or make it sad, whatever you prefer. Stay consistent with characterization, time period, diction, etc., but make it end your way. Two typed pages.

Due October 1

If you have questions, my email is lwade@nps.k12.va.us and my Edmodo code is zpqfv8. Join Edmodo today so that you have access to updates all summer. (The code will change and you won't be able to get in.)

