

Summer Reading for AP Literature

In preparation for taking AP Literature next year, you have two 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 time to write your book review and access in class.

****Required Reading Selection - *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini** **REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE TAKING AP LIT**

Book is due the day you come back to school. 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 week. 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 book review which will be submitted to the Norfolk Public Library Book Review Contest in the spring. (You will turn it in the first week of school.)

These novel titles change every year.

Nonfiction:

The Madhouse at the End of the Earth Written by Julian Sancton, this interesting adventure tale relates the story of the *Belgica's* journey to Antarctica, during which the ship and crew were trapped in the ice over the Antarctic winter.

Fiction

The Overstory by Richard Powers. This is a novel about a tree—I was skeptical, too, but I promise you will love it. It's a fable and an adventure story and an epic—offers a glimpse into activists who are trying to save trees.

The Water Dancer by Ta'nehisi Coates. Imagine abolitionists with super powers—think *Harriet* crossed with a Marvel movie. This is quite a read—hits upon many current issues and has a fresh spin on those heroic people who rescued others from slavery. You won't be disappointed.

Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits—I love a global novel, and this one is a great example of that genre. The loosely connected chapters contain stories about a group of people who attempt to cross from Morocco to Spain. This book about the immigrant experience is the shortest one on the list, and it details the complexities of searching for a better future. Don't expect a Western plot structure.

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jessmyn Ward. With echoes of Greek tragedy, Ward tells the story of an impoverished family in the deep south dealing with the results of racism—poverty, drug addiction, mass incarceration, etc. Ward creates noble characters who transcend their circumstances with grace, and a charming ghost as well.

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Antony Doerr. Not for the faint of heart; this is a long book! But so worth it. It's part science fiction, part love story, an explanation of environmental activism—so many great books rolled into one. I can't say enough about it.

The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate. This book has two timelines, one in the 1870's and one in 1987. The book chronicles the journey of a former slave attempting to solve a mystery and find her family through

the help of a newspaper column entitled “Lost Friends” which attempted to reunite former slave families with their loved ones.

Your selection from the seven books above will be the basis for your book review. The requirements for the book review should be very familiar, as you write one every year. Refer to the following guidelines for essay structure.

Book Review Guidelines

Opening Paragraph: Start with an attention getter and include information about setting, central conflict and main character.

Character Paragraph: Give insight into the main character. Discuss his or her personality, dreams, fears, conflicts, whatever you find interesting and relevant. Briefly discuss minor characters.

Plot Paragraph: Give a brief general plot outline but do NOT give away the ending! You’re trying to build interest. Conclude the paragraph with the theme or point of the work.

Opinion Paragraph: Express specific opinions about specific aspects of the work. You can comment on the depth or originality of the characters, the presence or absence of suspense, the novelty or the predictability of the plot, etc. Whatever caught your attention about the book is what you should give your opinion about, but remember to focus on literary merit.

Stay in third person. State everything as fact; no “I think” or “I believe.” (It weakens your argument.)

Length: 400-500 words

12 point Times New Roman double spaced

Make sure you italicize and use proper punctuation for your title. Due first week of school. If you have it done already as assigned, please submit now in Canvas.