

Summer Reading 2009

“Destiny is not a matter of chance; but a matter of choice.” William Jennings Bryan

“It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
Albus Dumbledore

YOU WILL READ THREE LITERARY WORKS FOR SUMMER READING.

First Novel (required)

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Second and Third Novels/Plays **Your choice** from the recommended reading list (attached)

- Please read the three summer reading novels/plays prior to our first class.
- Be prepared for quizzes, writing assignments, oral presentations, and an examination during the first weeks of school.
- Bring your summer reading notebook to the first class meeting.

Reading Notebook

In order to prepare for the assignments, keep a **reading notebook**, **highlight quotations and annotate your books**. Areas to cover in your notes are listed below and on the attached pages. Your first assignments for the course will be based on these notes.

I will not collect your notebook. It is for your use in preparing for and completing the course assignments. I will ask to see it at our first class meeting.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AND YOUR SUMMER READING!

Include in your summer reading notebook:

1. **Characters:** list and describe the major characters, significant details of appearance, behavior, attitude, and beliefs. List significant minor characters. Note important relationships among the characters, especially conflicts. Highlight relevant quotations in your book.
2. **Setting:** note important settings, the mood or atmosphere they create, and why they are important in the novel. Highlight relevant quotations in your book.
3. **Point of View:** identify the point of view (first or third person, limited or omniscient). How does the author's choice of this point of view affect the meaning of the work as a whole?
4. **Theme #1:** For each novel, identify one or more significant choices that the characters make, and explain what effect these choices have on the characters' destinies. Include specific examples and quotations. How does the author's use of character choices illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole (the theme)? Highlight relevant quotations in your book.

Theme #2: note one additional major theme you found in the novel, and give specific examples and quotations that illustrate this theme. Highlight relevant quotations in your book.

5. **Quotations:** Highlight significant quotations, explain what each one means and why it is important, both to you personally and to the world of the novel or play.
6. **Objects/Actions (possible Symbols and Motifs):** List, describe, and note significance.
7. **Personal Opinion:** Was this novel or play worth reading? Why or why not?
8. **Vocabulary:** highlight new words. Look up the definitions. The summer reading examination will include vocabulary words from the required novel. Pay particular attention to the words on the attached vocabulary list.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH IV

Recommended Summer Reading

Choose your second and third novels and/or plays from this list.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Bless Me Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
The Swallows of Kabul by Yasmina Khadra
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Fences by August Wilson
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

A Word of Caution

The summer reading novels and plays can be considered “classics.” As such, there is material available on the internet (e-notes) and in book form, including *Cliffs Notes* and *Sparknotes*.

I recommend you avoid these “learning aids.” They are, of course, no substitute for reading the literary work. In past years, some AP students have found these sources simply too tempting to resist. They start out visiting them just to “get ideas” and end up plagiarizing, either intentionally or unintentionally. A plagiarized paper, or even part of one, results in serious consequences. Trust yourself. You are a good reader and writer, or you would not have been recommended for AP English 4. Your ideas are important!

Notes on the Recommended Novels and Plays

NOVELS

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte 320 pages

This a classic tale of possessive and thwarted passion, one of the forerunners of today's soap operas and romance novels. The tempestuous and mythic story of Catherine Earnshaw, the precocious daughter of the house, and the ruggedly handsome, uncultured foundling her father brings home and names Heathcliff, is played out against the backdrop of English moors no less wild and raw than the love they develop for one another

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood 395 pages

Offred is a Handmaid in the futuristic Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now in pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. This novel is a frightening look at the politics of gender in a world where women are valued only for the services they can perform and their daily lives are rigidly controlled.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens 493 pages

This is the story of Pip, a young boy who goes from being poor to being wealthy, due to the kindness of an unknown benefactor. However, life does not turn out exactly as his "expectations" specify, and the story takes a number of ironic twists.

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy 390 pages

This is the story of a young woman's loves and losses in England during the late 19th century. As a heroine, Tess is continually put to the test of sheer survival against the forces fate brings against her.

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell 245 pages

Although the year has passed, this novel of a dystopian futuristic society is still unsettling. It tells the story of Winston Smith's struggle against a totalitarian state completely controlled by "Big Brother" whose telescreens watch a person's every move, where history is altered for propaganda purposes, and a new language is invented to keep people from thinking about ideas that the government considers dangerous.

Beloved by Toni Morrison 338 pages

The novel is based on the true story of Margaret Garner, a slave woman who chose to kill her own children, rather than have them returned to slavery after the family's escape to freedom. After this incident, she is haunted, not only by memories, but also by a physical presence.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte 433 pages

This novel is a “gothic” and “romantic” love story. Jane, a plain, yet spirited governess falls in love with her employer, the arrogant, brooding Mr. Rochester. The house, and Rochester’s past, harbor a dark secret! Will Jane’s virtuous integrity, keen intellect, and tireless perseverance enable her to break through class barriers and the burden of the past to be with the man she loves?

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya 262 pages

This is the story of Antonio Marez, a six-year-old boy, whose life is profoundly influenced by Ultima, the curandera, who heals with herbs and magic. With her wise guidance, Tony faces the many trials of growing from a boy into a man, including bigotry, diabolical possession, the moral collapse of his brother, and violent deaths.

Frankenstein, by Mary Wallstonecraft Shelley 242 pages

In trying to create life, the young student, Victor Frankenstein, unleashes forces beyond his control, setting into motion a long and tragic chain of events. How he tries to destroy his creation, as it destroys everything Victor loves, is a powerful story of love, friendship, and horror.

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini 371 pages

The Kite Runner follows the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant. As children in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970s, the boys are inseparable. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever, and eventually cements their bond in ways neither boy could have ever predicted.

The Swallows of Kabul by Yasmina Khadra 195 pages

Description from the book jacket: “Kabul under the Taliban, a devastated city ruled by executioners and crowds, where laughing in public brings down the wrath of the religious police. This is the world in which Yasmina Khadra – the pseudonym of a former officer in the Algerian army – sets his cauterizing novel of fanaticism and tenderness.

With an implacable eye, Khadra follows two couples: Mohsen and Zunaira are dispirited survivors of Afghanistan’s educated middle class; Atiq is a brutish jailer bound by a debt of gratitude to his dying wife, Musarrat. One day the horrified Mohsen finds himself taking part in the stoning of a condemned prostitute, an action that will impel all four characters toward new destinies.”

PLAYS

Note on Length: Plays are divided into acts, rather than chapters. The number of pages in the text of a play varies depending on the edition. For that reason, page numbers are not listed below.

Death of a Salesman, by Arthur Miller *copies of this play are available from Mrs. Fontaine

Death of a Salesman, which won the Pulitzer Prize and transformed playwright Arthur Miller into a national sensation, has been described as the first great American tragedy. Miller's most famous work, set post-World War II New York, addresses the painful conflicts within one family, but it also tackles larger issues regarding American national values. Through the Loman family, Willy, Linda, Biff and Happy, the play examines the cost of blind faith in the American Dream.

Fences by August Wilson

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson has written a cycle of plays about the African American experience in the United States for every decade of the 20th century. Beginning in 1957, between the Korean and Vietnam wars, *Fences* ends in 1965, but the themes of the play relate directly to the pre-civil-rights-movement, pre-Vietnam-war-era. All of Wilson's plays take place in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh of the Maxson family is a town where Troy and other men of his generation fled from the savage conditions of sharecropping in the south. Since we can look back on history with 20/20 hindsight, Wilson asks his audience to put together what they know of American history with the way his various characters experience and perceive history through their own, often conflicted eyes.

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

This Pulitzer Prize winning play, set in New Orleans in the late 1940's, describes the decline and fall of a fading Southern belle named Blanche DuBois. Blanche, a schoolteacher from Laurel, Mississippi, arrives at the apartment of her married sister, Stella Kowalski. She intends to stay at Stella's apartment for an unspecified but likely lengthy period of time. Blanche tells Stella that she lost Belle Reve, their ancestral home, following the death of all their remaining relatives. She also hints at some other problems in her past. When Blanche meets Stella's boorish husband, Stanley, the antithesis of everything Blanche holds sacred, the conflict is set in motion, and no one will escape its effects.

Assignments for *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

1. Read the attached background BEFORE you start reading the novel.
2. Take notes on your reading, following the notebook format on page 1.
3. Highlight significant quotations and new vocabulary in your text.
4. Learn the definitions of new vocabulary words, especially those on the list below.
5. Discussion topics: consider these as you read. Make notes on them in your notebook.
 - During the year, we will study several approaches to literary analysis: including sociological, ethical, psychological and archetypal. We will begin with sociological analysis, applying some of the basic principles of sociology to *Pride and Prejudice*. Find examples from the novel of each of the following basic principles of sociology, all of which relate to power within a society.
 1. People behave differently in groups than they do as individuals.
 2. People obey rules that are socially constructed.
 3. Some people have more power in making the rules than others.
 4. There are rewards for following the rules and penalties for breaking them. Rewards and penalties are not applied equally.
 - Read and highlight the article “Hooray for Hypocrisy” which compares modern social customs to those of Austen’s day. Do you agree with the writer’s thesis? Why?
 - In this novel, Austen explores the relationship between the individual and society. Her characters need to find the balance between the demands and expectations of society, and their own need for self-expression and personal fulfillment, just as we do today. Which of the characters find themselves in this situation, and how do they resolve it? What experiences in your own life relate to this topic, and how have you balanced these sometimes conflicting demands?
 - Marriage is explored as both a personal relationship and a social institution. Consider the characters’ attitudes toward the purpose of marriage, how one secures a mate, and the relative success of the marriages that already exist or that take place during the course of the novel. What does the author see as the main purpose of marriage? What is your opinion of the purpose of marriage? How does the author’s depiction of marriage in the novel relate to the basic principles of sociology listed above?
 - Read and highlight the article “Pride found to be a cross-cultural phenomenon.” Relate the principles in the article to the characters in the novel by citing specific examples from the text. To which characters does the title of the novel refer? Who is/are proud and who is/are prejudiced? What is the source of their pride? Which of the two types of pride described in the article does each character exhibit? Who is prejudiced and what is the source of their prejudices? How do pride and prejudice relate to each other?

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. acquiesce | 11. expedite | 21. propriety |
| 2. alacrity | 12. impertinent | 22. refute |
| 3. assent | 13. incredulous | 23. reprehensible |
| 4. augment | 14. infamy | 24. reproach |
| 5. caprice | 15. odious | 25. requited |
| 6. circumspect | 16. palatable | 26. sanguine |
| 7. discern | 17. pecuniary | 27. thwart |
| 8. dupe | 18. perverse | 28. veracity |
| 9. efficacy | 19. profligate | 29. vex |
| 10. equivocal | 20. propitious | 30. vindication |

Looking Ahead

One of your first assignments for *Pride and Prejudice* will be a brief essay in which you compare the characters, themes, or other aspects of the novel to the film version of another of Austen's works: *Emma*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Persuasion* or *Mansfield Park* (major motion pictures) and *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion* or *Mansfield Park* (on PBS Home Video). **YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO THIS ASSIGNMENT OVER THE SUMMER**, but you may want to think about, and maybe even preview, one or more of the films to see which one you would like to write about.

Visual Representation Assignment

For one of your three novels or plays, please create a visual representation to share on our first class meeting day. Some examples that have worked well in the past are:

movie poster
collage
diorama
illustration of a quotation, symbol, character of theme
symbolic object
mask or costume
travel brochure
newspaper or magazine headline, article, cover
CD with songs and liner notes

Assignment for your Choice Novel(s) and/or Play(s) (2)

You will not only have a choice of which two novels or plays to read, but you will also have some choices to make about how you will share your understanding of these works with the class and with your teacher. (Note the theme for the year keeps turning up – CHOICES.)

THE ESSAY AND THE ORAL PRESENTATION DO NOT NEED TO BE DONE OVER THE SUMMER. YOU ONLY NEED TO MAKE YOUR PLANS AND COMPLETE THE ATTACHED “SUMMER READING CHOICE PLAN.”

Please make your choice for each of the following:

1. For one novel/play, you will write a literary analysis of approximately 3-5 pages. As you read your novel, find ideas for topics you might write about.
2. For the other novel/play, you will do an oral presentation, either individually or with one or two partners. Find out who else is reading the same literary work you are, and decide if you want to work individually or in a group of 2 or 3 people. Groups must be in the same section of AP English 4, so the group plan is tentative and subject to change depending on your class schedule.

For the first class meeting, please complete and detach the

Summer Reading Choice Plan.

Summer Reading Assignment Summary:

What is due on the first day of class?

1. Completed summer reading choice plan – collected
2. Summer reading notebook – for your reference in completing class activities – checked, not collected
3. Visual representation of one of your three novels/plays – shared and displayed

These are the three assignments due. While they are not graded, you should remember that you are making a “first impression” of the caliber of work I can expect from you during the year. Since “you never have a second chance to make a first impression,” make it a good one!

Details on the other assignments (film, essay, and oral presentation) will be given in class.

Your Name: _____ **Period** _____

Summer Reading Choice Novel Plan

Complete, detach, and bring to the first class meeting.

For the essay:

Title and Author of Novel:

Topic you have chosen for your essay:

For the oral presentation:

Title and Author of Novel:

Please check:

___ **Individual Presentation**

___ **Group Presentation (limit 3 people) Must be in same English section.**

Presenting with: (name/s)
