

May 22, 2018

Dear Prospective AP English Student:

I look forward to working with you next year. AP Literature is an interesting and intense curriculum. My hope is that you will be challenged by me and the curriculum and grow from the experience. If you have any questions about these assignments during the summer, please feel free to contact me at kwuescher@barbertonschools.org. I usually check my school email weekly.

To prepare for our work next year, I recommend that you complete the following assignments before school resumes in August. I have the books and handouts available in room 205. Stop in whenever it's convenient.

Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Please see me for a copy of this book and the essay prompt. It would be a good idea to read the book over the summer. We will have our test over the book on Friday, August 24 and the essay is due on Tuesday, August 28.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. If you would like to purchase your own book that is certainly acceptable. We will be moving through this novel very quickly, so it would be a good idea to read the book and complete the vocabulary and chapter questions during the summer.

This letter and the handouts are available on the school website. I hope you enjoy your summer and this year's assignments.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Wuescher
AP English Teacher

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment 2018

Choose **ONE** of the five prompts below. Answer the prompt of your choice succinctly and comprehensively. Your essay should be two to three typed pages, double spaced and twelve-point professional font.

1. Discuss the use of the first-person point of view in this novel. Was it effective? Was Scout a reliable or truthful narrator? Why or why not? How might the novel have been different if the story was told from the third-person point of view, or even from the point of view of another character, such as Jem or Atticus.
2. Explore the relationship between parents (or parental figures) and children in the novel. Look at the relationship between Atticus and Jem and Scout, Calpurnia and the children, Bob and Mayella Ewell, the Radley family, Dill's relationship with his family, and the Cunningham family. What do they all have in common? What differentiates them? How important is family to each? Why? Explain in detail.
3. Analyze Atticus's role in the novel. Consider his role as a father, attorney, as well as friend and neighbor. Is he a good father, friend, etc.? Why or why not? How does he change throughout the novel? How do you think it will affect the way he raises his children?
4. Research the life of Victoria Price, one of the accusers in the Scottsboro case. Compare and contrast your findings with the character of Mayella Ewell. Be sure to explore their lives growing up, their family relationships, their behavior in court, etc.
5. Discuss the idea of hypocrisy in the novel. Miss Maudie says, ". . . Atticus Finch is the same in his house as he is on the public streets." What does this mean? What does it mean to be a hypocrite? Who in the novel are hypocrites, and how do they behave? What effect does their hypocrisy have on themselves, those around them, and the town of Maycomb?

Please take a look at the rubric on the other side of this page as a guide to writing your 2-3 page, typed and double-spaced paper.

Name _____ Score _____/100

Rubric for *To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay

- _____/10 Provides a clear and meaningful thesis statement, incorporating the prompt topic. The main ideas to be addressed in the essay are included in the introductory paragraph.
- _____/50 Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task with specific textual examples and/or personal knowledge and details to support the interpretations and inferences; i.e., using the ACES structure (citing the text to make your point and then explaining that point)
- _____/10 Illustrates control in organization, including effective use of transitions and paragraphing.
- _____/10 Provides a variety of sentence types and uses precise, descriptive language
- _____/5 Maintains a formal tone using third-person point of view.
- _____/5 Typed, double spaced, 12-point professional font with paragraphs indented
- _____/10 Minimal errors in language conventions (grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling)