

AP Literature and Composition

Summer Work 2020-2021

Here are my thoughts on summer work. I want it to be meaningful, enjoyable, and reasonable. Overloading you with tedious assignments just to “set the tone” for the class isn’t my style and doesn’t really benefit you (remember this when we’re reading and writing a lot during the school year!). The only tone I want to set is one of reading texts you find interesting and maybe exploring some ideas about life.

Part 1: Optional Reading

Here’s a list of some of the works we will be reading throughout the school year. You are NOT required to read all, or any, of these this summer. However, if you are a slower reader, it may help to get a jumpstart. We will be reading these works, along with others, rather quickly throughout the year. If you are someone who is involved in a lot of activities/clubs and you are taking several advanced courses, you may want to think about reading during the summer when your workload isn’t as heavy. There will not be an assignment with any of these books, but please feel free to take notes if you’d like.

[Frankenstein](#) - Mary Shelley

[The Great Gatsby](#) - F. Scott Fitzgerald

[A Raisin in the Sun](#) - Lorraine Hansberry

[Macbeth](#) - William Shakespeare

[Nickel Boys](#) - Colson Whitehead

You do not have to annotate the book because I just want you to enjoy reading and not be slowed down by marking (they’ll be plenty of time for that during class). You may use a Kindle version, borrowed library book, or the PDFs available here. You will be given a copy of each book to be used in class when the time comes.

Part II: Required Reading

You will only be required to read two books over the summer. You may get a copy from Mrs. LaCroix or the BHS office any time during the summer.

[*Tuesdays with Morrie*](#) - Mitch Albom

This book is a true story about a teacher, Morrie, and his student, Mitch. It is an easy read and will give you advice about life. *Tuesdays with Morrie* is not a book that has very high literary merit. It is not at the level of rigor of the other books you will read in AP literature, however, it does have great life lessons. It has high merit in the course of life! I enjoy reading this with my seniors each year. You will discuss its topics within some of your journal entries and we will certainly discuss it when you come back to school in August!

[*How to Read Literature Like a Professor*](#) - Thomas C. Foster

This book will be a key to your understanding of the readings we will have throughout the school year. Thomas C. Foster clearly emphasizes the steps needed to analyze literature like a teacher/professor. As an AP student, this is something you will be doing often. Foster's way of writing and teaching is easy and playful, yet informative. Please annotate this book marking anything you believe will help you as we read the more complex texts. You will need to know his steps well and will use this book throughout the year.

Part III: Join Google Classroom

I plan on posting some information on writing college essays along with some other random things on Google classroom over the summer. If you are interested in getting a jump on college essay, I am more than glad to help with those over the summer.

All summer work information will be listed there, too.

The code is **vrpbvzi**

Part IV: Keep a Journal

You will be required to keep a journal this summer. It will be a journal of experiences. It is required that this journal is a paper/pencil journal **not a digital journal**. Please see the detailed assignment [here](#).

I look forward to meeting you on the first day of your **SENIOR** year!

All the best!

Mrs. LaCroix
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