

AP Literature Summer Reading 2017

**Part I:** Please read and annotate 1 novel and 2 novellas this summer. You will be taking summer reading notes about each of the 3 separate texts. You will be writing 1 analytical essay on the novel of your choosing. For the novellas you will write 2 paragraphs going through either the *setting*, *symbols*, *imagery*, or *overarching themes* and how it creates meaning in the two separate novellas.

Please pick **1** of the following novels to read and annotate (150+ Pages)

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac

*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

*Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

*The Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

*Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

*King Lear* by William Shakespeare

Please pick **2** of the following novellas (approximately 50-100 pages)

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

*Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen

*The Stranger* by Albert Camus

*Turn of the Screw* by Henry James

*The Sorrows of Young Werther* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne

*Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupery

*No Exit* by Jean-Paul Sartre

**Part 2:**

Summer Reading Notes

Please answer the following in a Word Document for each reading. The notes can be answered in 1-2 sentences. Your notes must be kept all year to review in your binder.

1. What is the title of your book?
2. Who is the author of the book?
3. What is the genre of the book?
4. What is the setting of the story?
5. Provide a brief description of the major characters in the story.
6. Create a list of at least ten major events that occur within the book.
7. List and explain two conflicts that occur within the book.
8. List and explain a symbol in the book. Remember, a person, place, object or event can be symbolic.
9. What are two major themes that are presented within this work? Explain how the themes are developed by events from the text.
10. Select three quotes that are important within the work. **Explain the significance of the quotes.** Don't forget to state the speaker of the quote. If the quote is made by the narrator, be certain to state this point as well.
11. What stylistic devices did the author use? (What did you notice about the way the book was written?)
12. What did you learn from this book that may affect you today or in the future?
13. What was your favorite part of this book?
14. What was your least favorite part of the book?
15. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Explain your response.

## Requirements for Literary Analysis Essays

Analysis essays are those which point out how a writer uses language.

Each particular point you choose to write about should be a separate paragraph. Write your paragraphs on any of the following techniques: characterization, setting, theme, figurative language, tone, symbolism, word choice, point-of-view, poetics (meter, rhyme scheme, form), metaphor and/or simile, and word sounds (alliteration, consonance, assonance).

Each paragraph should include a sentence statement as to why your point is SIGNIFICANT. If the reader is left saying, “so what,” you haven’t written the essay correctly.

Each paragraph should include AT LEAST ONE complete quote that serves as an example of the TECHNIQUE you are writing about. TWO or THREE quotes in a longer, more complete paragraph is desirable.

INTRODUCE your quotes. As an example: Poe’s repetition is exemplified with his use of the term “nevermore . . .”

Always write about fiction and poetry in the PRESENT TENSE. Novels, short stories and the like are timeless, the action of the story will still be going on after you are dead.

Differentiate between the author and the speaker of the work. Not every narrator stands as a representation of the writer. The writer is the person using the literary techniques, the speaker or the narrator is part of the story.

No one cares about your OPINION of the literature. You are arguing for your analysis to be read as a statement of fact. Do not stray from explaining how the literature works. Avoid the use of first-person, “I.” Instead, you should use the expression, “one can read the work as . . .”

Avoid passive voice. Instead of saying, “This technique is used by the author,” say, “The author uses this technique . . .”

Remember you are writing for an educated, literate and culturally sophisticated audience. Avoid the use of commonplace expressions and words of little descriptive value.

Don’t summarize or explain the narrative of the piece, instead assume that your reader will have read the literature you are writing about or otherwise will go educate himself before tackling your analysis.

Remember that a simple description of the text is not the same as an analysis of it.

Take care to conclude your essays with a synthesis of your analysis and adding some insight to the literature that you have previously discussed in the body of your essay. Take the reader of your essay to a new understanding of the author’s work.

**Part 3** – You must write an argumentative essay analyzing *the novel of your choosing*. Be creative in what you choose to talk about! Be thinking of possible topics while you read, and highlight/underline evidence to support those ideas. The following is a list of requirements for the essay:

- Five pages, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times New Roman font
- Your introduction MUST include a clear thesis statement (this is an argument)

- Please provide direct quotations from the text
- You must use MLA-style documentation (you should include a works cited that cites the novels; do not consult other sources, though.)
- Your conclusion should not be a re-statement of your introduction. You should have taken us somewhere new during the course of the essay, so try to keep your conclusion fresh and insightful!

(I have included the “Requirement for Literary Analysis Essays” list above, so that should be able to provide you with some further information.)

**Part 4** – Don’t stress out! This is the ROUGH draft of this essay. You’ll get this one back with my comments/suggestions/questions all over it, along with help with MLA-style, so PLEASE just do your best and don’t get hung up on the little things.

**Part 5**- For your 2 paragraphs for the novellas you will be choosing 1 idea for each novella; either the *setting*, *symbols*, *imagery*, or *overarching themes* and how it creates meaning in the two separate novellas. The most important thing for this component of your assignment is to accurately reflect your impressions of the novellas and why (textual evidence) you thought so. Your novellas must use two different ideas. So, for example, you can’t choose symbols for both novellas.

**Thank you! I’m looking forward to seeing you in August!**

**\*The assignment will need to be submitted to TurnItIn.com during the first week of school. I’ll give you that information when you return.**