

AP Lit Summer Assignment 2019

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Remind APLit2019 (Class Code: @bbg7a2): <https://www.remind.com/join/bbg7a2>

READ THIS - Why this assignment?

The AP Literature and Composition exam is composed of three essay questions and 55 multiple choice questions. Q3 is the notorious free-response question. This question will pose a philosophical idea and ask how that idea manifests itself in literature. **English literature is the study of philosophy through voice**, so the question will always be idea-centered even if it does not appear that way. For example, this past year Q3 asked students to think about a fictional work of literary merit that deals with the outcome of a character who grasps uncompromisingly to an ideology. The prompt for Q3 will list several literary works that may be used to answer the question-BUT these suggestions are SUGGESTIONS. A student can use any book he/she knows well that speaks to the question.

The prompt specifies that students choose a work of significant literary merit. These include novels, plays, and epic poems (Short stories do not qualify). The work may be classic or contemporary. Many students use iconic standbys, like *The Great Gatsby* or *Frankenstein*, to answer the question. This is fine; this may even be great. However, there is a drawback. ALL AP LITERATURE teachers have read *The Great Gatsby* multiple times. They have taught it. If they teach public school, they may have taught it 7 times a day for 10 years. Students cannot fake it, even slightly, when it comes to *The Great Gatsby* and other iconic works of fiction, and despite deep denial on the part of the students, teachers know when you have only read SparkNotes and Shmoop, not the novel itself. Therefore, I am asking you to read contemporary work of significant merit during the summer.

Assignments:

1. Write a 150-200 word reflection on John Green's "How and Why We Read: Crash Course Literature." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

Respond to John Green's position on reading. Do you agree or not? Have you always felt this way? Or did the video expose you to a new idea? What are your take-aways.

2. Learn how to annotate and keep a notebook–

Review A & B for helpful ways to annotate.

- “Annotation for Smarties: 5 steps for Teaching Students Active Reading and Critical Thinking” <http://www.aplithelp.com/annotation-for-smarties-5-tips-for-teaching-students-active-reading-and-critical-thinking/>
- Dialectical Journal Instructions <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/16378/Pre-AP%2010%20Dialectical-Journal-Handout.pdf>.

3. Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.) and keep these assignments in it.

We will use this notebook to create notes for the major works that we study, so find one that you really like.

- Explore different note-taking methods: Google different methods or explore on your own. https://www.usu.edu/asc/studysmart/pdf/Note_taking_examples.pdf

4. Choose a novel, from the lists below, to read and annotate (You cannot choose Jumanji). You can go back up to 30 years. Read & annotate it. Create three pages of inspiring notes.

How you organize those three pages is up to you. I know that this is vague and undefined, but do what you feel is right. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is create three interesting pages of notes about your reading experience. I know Mrs. Gaspary did special note styles with you, so I know you can. However, they don't have to be artistic. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome!

Book Lists

Click on the titles to learn more about each book. It is worth your time. Try to pick a book that you will enjoy reading.

- **National Book Award:** <https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/years/>
- **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction:** <https://www.abebooks.com/books/features/man-booker-prize/index.shtml>
- **Man Booker Prize:** <https://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-category/219>

If you can't choose

My favorites are *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich, *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McCurty, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, and *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. However, I have not read a lot of them.

Ask your parents, they may have read a few.

Or you can sample 5 minutes of audio on audible.com, or you can often look at digital sample online from itunes, or Amazon, or a Overdrive (digital library).

- **National Book Award in Fiction:** <https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/years/>

The National Book Awards were established in 1950 to celebrate the best writing in America.

- **The Man Booker Prize:** <https://www.abebooks.com/books/features/man-booker-prize/index.shtml>

The prize, which launched in 1969, aims to promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom.

- **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction:** <https://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-category/219>

For distinguished fiction published in book form during the year by an American author, preferably dealing with American life.