

Southern Lehigh High School English Department Summer Reading Assignments

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE

The following works by American, British, and world authors are recommended by the College Board. Starred* titles are available in electronic book form on Overdrive. See our school library website for more information.

AP ENGLISH students must read a TOTAL of TWO books from the following categories:

Feminist and Marxist Criticism (REQUIRED)

- [*Jane Eyre*](#) by Charlotte Bronte*

Psychoanalytic Criticism (Choose ONE)

- [*Slaughterhouse-Five*](#) by Kurt Vonnegut*
- [*Room*](#) by Emma Donoghue
- [*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*](#) by Ken Kesey*
- [*We Were the Mulvaney's*](#) by Joyce Carol Oates*
- [*1984*](#) by George Orwell*

Directions:

Students will complete a series of assessments on the assigned summer reading, each designed to emulate the structure and rigor of each component of the AP Exam. Though no formal notes or journals will be collected, the assessments REQUIRE students to record detailed active reading notes that focus on **Character, Theme, and Rhetoric** while completing their summer reading. Additionally, students MUST print and review the lists of rhetorical, literary, and poetry terms in the document entitled [“AP Terms” THAT CAN BE FOUND HERE](#). Because many of these terms will be new to you and a full understanding of them is ESSENTIAL to your success on the AP Test, you will be assessed on your ability to APPLY these terms to your reading beginning with your very FIRST summer reading assessment. It is strongly recommended that you RECORD examples of these terms as part of your note-taking while you complete your summer reading. Students who do not begin to actively identify examples of these key terms in their reading will find themselves underprepared for the summer reading assessments and for the course itself. PLEASE SEE MR. CASTAGNA IN ROOM 123 PRIOR TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

IMPORTANT!

You will be assessed on the required readings during the first week of school.

Assessments will encompass both works with the structure and rigor of the AP Test.

Assessments will be comprised of the following:

- Multiple Choice Questions
- Passage-based Critical Reading
- Formal Essay

The English department has carefully considered reading level, content, and age-appropriateness of each title to ensure a variety of selections appealing to the diversity in ability, maturity, and family dynamics of our students, as well as themes and motifs that are related to each course. Please take time to research book descriptions and reviews prior to making your choices. Parents/guardians are encouraged to guide their own students through this process and/or review books prior to selection. In addition, note that you select the correct book version; in the case of classics, be sure to choose the original version, not an abridged or young readers' version. All titles are hyperlinked to [Amazon.com](#) for your convenience. While books may be purchased through Amazon or Barnes & Noble, many titles will be available in the school and public libraries and on Overdrive.