

Summer Reading Assignment
Advanced Placement Literature & Composition
Fall 2023- Spring 2024

If not completed during summer, you have exactly two weeks beginning the first day of class.

Part I: Novels

Review the “How To Read Literature Like a Professor” Powerpoint that accompanies this assignment. The information presented here will be heavily utilized in class as well as during exam preparation.

[Read Lit like a professor.pptx](#)

Choose **ONE** of the following novels to read. While you are reading, carefully annotate elements of the author’s craft that help develop the theme(s) of the novel. You may consider aspects such as setting, conflict, character development, irony, symbolism, imagery, and diction; however, do not limit yourself to these suggestions. For further enrichment concerning annotations, please reference the aforementioned “How To Read Lit.” Powerpoint.

Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Atonement - Ian McEwan
Klara and the Sun - Kazuo Ishiguro
Little Fires Everywhere - Celeste Ng
Parable of the Sower - Octavia E. Butler
The White Tiger - Aravind Adiga

As you read your novel, complete a Major Works Data Sheet. You may only use online sources for the biographical, historical, and genre information. All other information should be completed from your understanding of the novel. You will complete a MWDS for each novel read in class as well.

[Major Works Data Sheet Template - FORM](#)
[Example of Completed MWDS](#)

Part II: Writing Guide

All AP Literature students are required to purchase Strunk & White’s *The Elements of Style*, 4th edition as a reference for the composition requirement for the course. This new glossary of grammatical terms is a convenient reference for readers that reviews elementary rules of usage and conveys principles of composition and style. “This excellent book, which should go off to college with every freshman, is recognized as the best book of its kind we have.”

Part III: Short Stories

One of your major assessments in class will be a college-level essay requiring you to make an assertion about a specific political, philosophical, or social stance held by an author based on two of his/her short stories, scholarly analysis based on a critical lens, and biographical research. Choose two authors from the list below and read two of their short stories each, employing the same annotation procedures recommended for your novel selection. If interested, feel free to research the critical lenses we will utilize in class: Existentialist, Feminist, Historical/Cultural, Marxist, New Historicism, Psychoanalytic, Post-Colonial, & Postmodern.

Margaret Atwood
James Baldwin
Ann Beattie
Toni Cade Bambara
Joyce Carol Oates
Willa Cather
Anton Chekhov
John Cheever
Kate Chopin
Sandra Cisneros
Stephen Crane
William Faulkner
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Ernest Hemingway

Henry James
James Joyce
Franz Kafka
Jack London
Alice Munro
Zora Neale Hurston
Flannery O'Connor
John Steinbeck
Amy Tan
Mark Twain
Kurt Vonnegut
Alice Walker
Eudora Welty
Edith Wharton
John Updike