

**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*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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