

Advanced Placement English III: Summer Reading Assignment 2016-17

Assignment: Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (unabridged) and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass. You must complete this assignment regardless of who is your instructor. The assignment is the same for ALL students taking AP junior English.

Resources: We recommend buying your own books and making marginal notes/highlighting key passages as you read. This process of close reading mimics what you will do in a college course. There are unabridged versions of *Huck Finn* at Barnes and Noble for under \$5. There are also a few used bookstores in the area that may carry these titles. If you do not wish to purchase the texts, they are available at the Wake Forest-Rolesville High School media center as well as Wake County public libraries. We encourage you to get your books as soon as possible, so that you do not run into problems of finding none available.

In addition, the following websites provide online versions of these works:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn online text:

- <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Twa2Huc.html>

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass online text:

- <http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/abolitn/dougnarrhp.html>

Please carefully note the following: Outside help is prohibited for your summer reading assignments. We want to gauge your ability to read and analyze specific texts, not your ability to use Internet search engines, etc. On the first day of class you will sign an honor pledge claiming that you have not used outside assistance for these assignments; if we discover otherwise, you will receive zeroes and face disciplinary action.

Definitions (optional assignment—additional credit may be awarded per teacher discretion): Research and define the following rhetorical elements: **theme, characterization, symbolism, diction, figurative language, imagery, syntax, tone, satire, and irony**. Type a full definition that thoroughly explains each element. Each of these terms plays a crucial role in understanding rhetoric, which is the goal of AP Language and Composition. You may use the Internet to define these terms; we suggest looking at multiple sites to get a full definition, with explanatory examples. You do not need to type the examples.

Additional Information: The AP® Language and Composition course explores a variety of American texts through which students learn close-reading and analysis skills. The purpose of the course, as stated by College Board's *AP English Course Description*, "is to enable students to write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives." The students read both nonfiction and fiction works by American authors in order to achieve a higher level of learning and analysis. Students are instructed in the different forms and functions of rhetoric in order to analyze written works, as well as to write on various topics through argumentation, narration, and exposition, and to complete their own writings. The course is designed based on the requirements and guidelines provided by the most recent publication of College Board's *AP English Course Description*.

We do not assume that our students arrive with the above abilities. Our mission is to develop these skills in our students. In addition to using class time to develop close reading skills, independent thought, and discussion of rhetorical strategies, the AP classroom utilizes timed writings in class to a greater extent than the honors classroom.

You will complete a written evaluation on both works the first week of school to assess how carefully you read and comprehended the works. All instructors give evaluations where the questions are quoted passages from the works. Questions may ask you to identify the speaker, who is spoken to, what is being described, what was happening when the passage was spoken, what happened after the passage was spoken, etc., and how these things relate to literary devices. Therefore, **read the actual text**.

Here are some sample AP assessment questions from other works:

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

- After Jordan tells Nick the story of Gatsby and Daisy, Nick says that Gatsby "came alive to me, delivered suddenly from the womb of his purposeless splendor." How does the **metaphor** of birth help explain what Gatsby's behavior had meant to Nick up to then?

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

- When the crowd calls for Mrs. Mayor Starks to speak, Joe says, "Ah never married her for nothin' lak dat. She's uh woman and he place is in de home." How does Janie react? What larger meaning, implied by the novel's images, is signified by the cliché that Joe "took the bloom off things"? What does she do to adjust to the position Joe assigns her?
- Janie is alone in the store when a tall stranger appears. How do Janie's responses to his questions reflect her new independence? Examine the language used to describe their checker game. Given the patterns developed in the novel thus far, consider the meanings that are implied for Janie in her being invited to play, the free talk, the competition for the king, the importance of "watching" the game, and the resolution of conflict in laughter.

You are encouraged to take notes on your reading, and you will be allowed to use your notes on the evaluations.

Spark Notes are good resources. However, do not read them in lieu of the actual text. Doing so will not prepare you for the evaluations on both works. In addition, it is often not enough to have read. One must learn to read *carefully*, remember characters and key events, and anticipate what will happen next in the book.

Failure to complete the summer assignment will not be a basis for a schedule change. Students who fail to complete the summer assignment will be required to do so during the first few weeks of class. This reading will be on top of the course's nightly assigned reading. Therefore, it is to every student's advantage to complete the summer assignment on time.

For a complete description of this and any other AP course, access <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jpf>. Please email if you have questions. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to teaching you in 2015-16!

Thanks!

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