



**NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19, PLEASE PREPARE FOR CLOSURES AND DO YOUR BEST TO PURCHASE COPIES OF ALL WORKS WE WILL READ IN OUR CLASS:**

***THE SCARLET LETTER,***  
***THE CRUCIBLE,***  
***NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS,***  
***THE GREAT GATSBY,***  
***INHERIT THE WIND,***  
***OF MICE AND MEN,***  
***THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD, and***  
***DEATH OF A SALESMAN***

Dear Advanced Placement **Language and Composition Students** (11<sup>th</sup> graders):

Thank you for signing up to take AP Language and Composition for the 2020-21 school year. Your summer reading assignments will include two major works that must be read and annotated in their entirety prior to the first day of class:

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain  
and  
***The Awakening*** by Kate Chopin

Please feel free to purchase these books at either a used book store or online where they are less expensive. If you use a library book, be prepared to take notes that you will bring to the first day of class. You should annotate your copies with meaningful responses surrounding the following questions:

1. What are the authors saying? (subject)
2. Why are they writing—how do you know? (For what purposes—to define, to defend, to argue, to explore, to persuade, to classify, to compare/contrast?)
3. How are they saying it? (the “what?”—what techniques do they employ?)  
Look for patterns of usage:
  - What does their diction (word choices) reveal about their tone (attitude)?
  - What level/s of diction do they use—any dialect, formal diction, etc.? (consider their intended audiences)
  - Do they employ imagery and figurative language? How? What are the effects?
  - What grammatical/syntactical patterns do they use? (sentence lengths, structures, orders, parallelisms, inversions, repetitions, etc.)
4. What effects do they achieve as a result? (the “so what?”)

[www.wcpss.net](http://www.wcpss.net)

Si necesita servicios de traducción gratuitos para comprender los procesos escolares, llame al (919) 852-3303

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات الترجمة المجانية للتعرف على سير العمليات بالمدرسة، اتصل بالرقم (919) 852-3303

Si vous avez besoin de services de traduction gratuits pour comprendre les procédures scolaires, appelez le (919) 852-3303

यदि आपको विद्यालय की प्रक्रियाओं को समझने के लिए निःशुल्क अनुवाद सेवाएं चाहिए, तो (919) 852-3303 पर कॉल करें

학교/교육 과정에 관한 무료 번역 서비스가 필요하시면 다음 번호로 연락하여 주십시오 (919)852-3303

Nếu quý vị cần sự thông dịch miễn phí để hiểu phương pháp trường học, xin vui lòng gọi số điện thoại, 919-852-3303

如果您需要免费翻译服务来了解学校流程，请致电 (919) 852-3303



Identifying literary devices, characters, grammatical/syntactical devices in a work is only the first step of close reading. Your job is to move beyond simply telling *what* devices an author uses, to analyzing and articulating *how* and *why* he or she uses them. The question to answer is not “*What?*” but “*So what?*”

Your annotations/notes are to be completed independently. You will be expected to demonstrate your understanding of these texts either by quiz, by in-class essay, or both.

### **Course Requirements:**

This course emphasizes the reading of non-fiction and writing synthesis, analysis and argumentative papers. It also meets the state curriculum goals that include the reading of fiction, drama and poetry. The eleventh grade WCPSS English III course explores American literature, and the AP part of the course infuses the literary mix with a wider array of sixteenth through twenty-first century works.

### **Some Important Terms to Familiarize Yourself With Over the Summer:**

Genre: the literary form or type, such as, novel, play, poem, essay, speech, etc.

Diction: a writer’s or speaker’s word choice (connotation, denotation, symbolism, imagery)

Syntax: a writer’s or speaker’s sentence patterns, such as phrases and types of clauses

Synthesis: the combining of separate elements or substances to form a coherent whole. In research synthesis refers to critically selecting information from a variety of sources to inform your own discussion of a topic; combining sources and your position to form a cohesive, supported argument, documenting sources accurately.

Modes of writing: the strategy a writer uses to accomplish his or her purposes (analysis, description, argument, contrast and comparison, cause and effect, narration and definition.)

Rhetoric: the art of discourse, the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques.

Aristotelian Appeals: Aristotle stated that persuasive speaking or writing must appeal to logos (logic), ethos (credibility, believability of the speaker), or pathos (emotion).

### **Expectations:**

The College Board designed this course to enable high school students to meet the requirements of a college freshman composition course, and for those who score high enough on the AP exam, to earn credit for that course. Like its college equivalent, the purpose of this AP course “is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers” (from “English Language,” <http://www.collegeboard.com>).

I am looking forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

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