



AP Literature and Composition Applicant:

Lincoln High School

AP Literature and Composition – Summer Reading Assignments 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

Congratulations and welcome to Lincoln High School's Honors English program for 11th /12th grade – AP English Literature and Composition. Our program's goal is to make students college ready and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam by exposing them to a variety of reading selections while developing the skills to recognize cultural and historical influences on literature.

You are preliminarily enrolled in the class. Be aware: there is a **waitlist** of students eager to take your spot!

Summer reading is a **required** part of this program; to ensure your spot in the class you must read the texts below: four required, and one optional and highly recommended, especially if you want to beef up your literary analysis abilities. You can purchase your own texts. To get your texts from me, you must see me before May 26, 2017.

- *Required:* Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe
- *Required:* Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen
- *Required:* Frankenstein Mary Shelley
- *Required:* The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Optional and highly recommended:* How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster

DUE DATE for Summer Reading: the first day of school. There are no excuses. Period. "I didn't know." "I didn't receive the notification." "I didn't have access to a computer." All of these excuses prove that you are not AP material and should not be enrolled in the class. Bring all books, materials, and binder to class every day. No exceptions.

Be prepared to complete in class assignments on the **four required texts** on our first day of class and throughout the course. To aid your success, I highly recommend you annotate the text as you read. The goal is to develop your own thoughts and analysis. Highlight interesting, important, or confusing passages. List questions. Determine themes. Note figurative language. Look for patterns (words, details, images, symbols). A hint: use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or details you want to return to later. In the front of the book record the symbol you used and write the page numbers that have that symbol. Another hint: if the book is not yours or you do not plan to write in it, strategically annotate on post-it notes. *The Final Hint: while CliffsNotes, SparkNotes and other sites can seem like options when under a time crunch, the AP Exam is about cold reading difficult literature and developing analysis on the spot.* The best way to prepare is to read a LOT of difficult literature. In other words, ***READ these texts!***

Final acceptance into the Lincoln High School Honors English program is contingent upon completion of the summer reading assignment. You will be evaluated on your ability to personally engage with the text and successfully analyze it through AP style questions and prompts. Failure to complete the summer reading assignment puts you in danger of being dropped from the class and *will* have a negative effect on overall grade.

I'm excited about next year and look forward to starting our class in August!

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