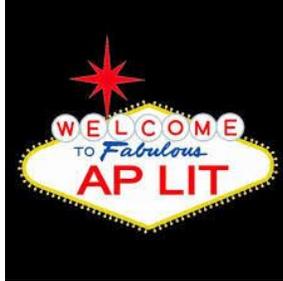


AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

GNHS

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Welcome to AP Lit! I am excited to meet all of you next fall and read some awesome literature together. In this document I will outline the expectations for the summer assignment. Please feel free to email me at mmeyer@d127.org with any questions or concerns.

~Please read and follow directions carefully~

Requirements:

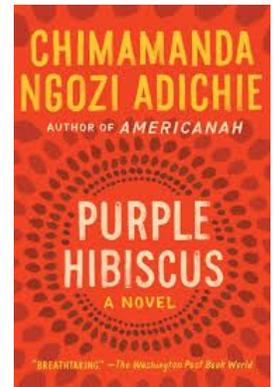
1. **Purchase *Purple Hibiscus*** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

ISBN-10: 1616202416

ISBN-13: 978-1616202415

Please purchase a paper copy not an eBook. If you are having difficulties getting a book, please email me (mmeyer@d127.org) immediately, and I will assist you. Do not wait until the last minute to order your book.

- *Purple Hibiscus* tells the story of Kambili, a young girl who lives a seemingly idyllic life in Nigeria with her wealthy family; that life, however, is undercut by her father's tyranny and cruelty. Kambili's journey in the novel takes her to a place of freedom which she must then reconcile with the oppressiveness of her home.
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's best-selling novel made a splash in the US, and Adichie has become a prominent literary figure and feminist in western culture. She is featured in Beyoncé's 2013 "[Flawless](#)" video.
- Watch her compelling Ted Talk "The Danger of a Single Story" https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story



2. **Annotate while reading.** If you are not sure what to annotate, look [here for annotation tips](#). Look [here for more sources on how to mark a book](#).

- It is important that you come up with your own labeling system. Do not just underline a bunch of stuff without labeling or tagging. For example, if you are noticing the theme of rebellion, you can tag your annotations with the word rebel. Maybe you can come up with pictures to tag like a heart for love or relationships.



- Yes, annotating slows down your reading which is the point. You MUST learn to read carefully, not speed read. This class is about the craft, the details, and your thinking. If you read too quickly, you are not training yourself to “fondle the details” (Nabokov). *Do you remember Nabokov’s “Good Readers and Good Writers” essay?*
 - You need to annotate on each page. I do not have a specific number of annotations that are required, but you need to show you thought about the text and created meaning and connections. Some scenes/pages will need more annotations than others. [Here is the annotations rubric.](#)
 - You will be allowed to use your annotations during the in-class writing assessments.
3. **Mark three scenes** that confuse you. You are either unsure what is going on or you do not understand WHY the scene is in the book.
 4. **Essential questions** to keep in mind while reading/annotating:
 - Pay close attention to both the coming-of-age aspect of the novel and the cultural conflict that challenges the characters’ sense of identity.
 - Consider the following:
 - a. How does Kambili’s understanding of the world shift as the novel progresses? What causes that shift?
 - b. How is Kambili caught between colliding cultures or belief systems? How does that conflict bring her sense of identity into question?
 - c. What roles do fear, faith and family play in Kambili’s journey?
 5. I have [attached a directory](#) of sorts to enhance your reading experience. Use this resource as you see fit. It contains pictures and explanations of words/traditions you might not be familiar with.
 - Adichie uses Igbo often, and so I recommend you keep this guide with you as you read. But if you would rather just lose yourself in the text, you will see that Adichie often explains the Igbo terms in English right after the italicized African words.
 - You are not required to answer the questions, but they will help you “check” your understanding.

Assessments:

1. Annotations
2. Passage-based reading quiz
3. Class discussions
4. Journal entries (more on that when we meet in the fall)
5. Timed in-class writing assessment (AP Lit style)

**You should have your annotations completed the first day of class; we will write the first week of class.*

Enduring Understandings:

- Effective readers examine the author's use of language (figurative language, detail, syntax, and other devices) in order to arrive at a textually-supported interpretation of the work.
- Effective readers understand that the author's choice of vehicle, structure, and style affects the message of the work and how that message is received by the audience.
- Reading literature allows a person to explore different perspectives on the world and humanity, identifying the viability of these perspectives based on his or her experiences, observations, and studies.

Essential Questions:

- How do authors use language to make meaning?
- How does the structure of the work influence my understanding of it?
- What does it mean to read critically?