**ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION—SUMMER READING LIST—2016**

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Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition. I look forward to meeting you at the start of the school year. On that first day and throughout the year, I will stress the importance of the “three-pronged” approach to literature: reading analytically, writing superbly, and responding to the human spirit inherent in works of literary merit. To that end, you will not only be reading a novel or play this summer; you will also be responding to it in several ways.

Allow yourself enough time to browse through several books from the list. Read a few pages of each before deciding upon one. Because you will spend much time with it, select a work which will maintain your interest over the next month or so.

**Reading, Writing, Responding to Your Summer Selection:**

**Reading Assignment:** First, read the book in its entirety. All of the works on the list have appeared as free-response essay question choices on the College Board’s May exam. You may, in fact, use your summer book on that exam, so read thoroughly and seriously. As you read, look beyond plot toward literary devices including (but not limited to) tone, theme, character, irony, imagery, paradox, style, allusion, foreshadowing, syntax, symbolism, motifs, etc.

Second, Xerox one page which merits further literary analysis. Annotate it carefully. (While I assume you may do this throughout, I am not collecting books to check annotations.) My purpose here is to gauge how closely you analyze. In addition, write a single but solidly written full paragraph explaining those annotations. What did you find? Why are those things important to the work as a whole?

**Responding Assignment:**  Select five quotations you find striking or memorable. For each quote, write (TYPE) a one paragraph explanation of why you find it memorable or applicable to your own life. This assignment asks you to make that personal connection to literature that is so very important.

**Writing Assignment:**

Know that during the first or second week of the new school year, you will write an in-class essay about your novel or play. The prompts will be taken from former College Board exams.

**To summarize, due the first day back: Xeroxed passage with paragraph AND quote reflections.**

**Literary Works:**

A Thousand Acres (Smiley) Pride and Prejudice (Austen) Obasan (Kogawa)

Beloved (Morrison) The Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver) Grapes of Wrath

Catch-22 (Heller) Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson) Othello

Jane Eyre (Bronte) Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (Joyce)