

AP Literature Summer Assignment 2023

“The role of a writer is not to say what we can all say, but what we are unable to say.” -- Anais Nin

NOTE: The due date for both the suggested reading and the correlating assignments will be the first week of school.

Introduction

Your summer assignment is a chance for you to read a variety of texts, explore ideas, and write in response to what you are reading and thinking. The assignment has three parts and all work is due the first week of school.

I have linked to all the texts that are available online, but in some cases you may need to go to your local library to get a copy of a novel. In many cases, I have included extra links if you are fascinated by what you read and are interested in exploring more. As Voltaire said, “Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too.” Enjoy the privilege of reading great texts. Enjoy the writing process. In short, have a great summer!

Part I -- Organizing

Text -- [How I Take Notes](#) and [10 Note-Taking Tips](#)

After watching StudyTee’s notes system, I want you to think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used for this summer and throughout the year. Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). You will use this notebook to create notes for the summer reading assignments.

Why it is important -- The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy; the most important aspects are not always salient. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. This notebook will serve as a means to consolidate what you have learned throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make.

Part II -- Reading

Text 1 -- [Leo Babauta’s Why I Read \(+ a Dozen Book Recommendations\)](#)

Assignment#1 -- Write a page of notes about your relationship with reading. Share an honest assessment of the role that it plays in your life. Think about how you would conceptualize and categorize the impact reading has had on you. I value honesty over flattery. If reading is not your thing, say it. If you love it, then let me know. I don’t care so much which side you take. More important than what you choose is the truth of your reflection. I want to read about why you feel the way that you do. I want to get to know you as a reader.

Why it is important -- This is the first step in me getting to know you as a reader. What’s more important than that?

Text 2 -- Read ONE of the books listed HERE:

- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *1984* by George Orwell

Assignment #2-- Then create 2 pages of notes about your book. How you organize those three pages is up to you. I know that this is vague and undefined, but look at it another way. I am empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is create two interesting pages of notes about your reading experience--feel free to take a reader-response approach to your notes--what you noticed, what you questioned, what you predicted, what you felt, etc. as you read. Or feel free to consider literary elements such as characterization, conflict, plot, flashback, setting, point of view, symbolism, and theme. You can even note literary devices that were meaningful such as irony, foreshadowing, imagery, and figurative language. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome! Be sure to write your name and copy the novel's title and author at the top of your notes, and use the tips from [How I Take Notes](#) and [10 Note-Taking Tips](#) to help you organize your notes.

Why it is important -- A mature thinker chooses and develops his or her own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. I respect your ability to make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, and personal experiences and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed my expectations. So do it.

Text 3 – [Poetry Foundation Poem of the Day](#)

Assignment#3 -- Poetry Foundation features a poem each day from a diverse list of present and past poems. Choose a poem from any date over the summer and create notes for it. The notes should focus on an [analysis](#) of your chosen poem. Look for parts that are interrelated. Find the individual aspects of the poem that give it meaning. This means you can examine anything: structure, tone, theme, connotative diction, imagery, figurative devices such as metaphor and simile, etc. [Here](#) is a good example of a complex analysis of a popular middle school poem. A more sophisticated analysis of an e.e. Cummings poem can be found [here](#). Be sure to write your name and copy the poem's title and author at the top of your notes, and use the tips from [How I Take Notes](#) and [10 Note-Taking Tips](#) to help you organize your notes.

Why it is important -- Thoughtful readers write to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately by selecting apt and specific evidence, organizing the evidence into broader ideas, and conveying the impact of its meaning.

