

AP English Literature Summer Reading Assignment 2025

You will choose your own book to read this summer. Your guidelines are as follows:

1. You may not choose a book you have read, or are reading, for any other class in this school.
2. Your book must be **adult fiction**. This might be a novel or a play, but no short story collections, and no nonfiction. **Young adult fiction (generally designated as “YA”) is not suitable for this assignment.** A quick Google will tell you whether or not a book falls in that category.
3. Because AP Central emphasizes works that have what it calls “literary merit,” **your book must be a “classic” or have won an award for literary excellence.** For the most part, award-winning books will be modern (20th and 21st century). Note that the Nobel prize for literature is almost without exception awarded for lifetime accomplishment, not just one book, so anything by a Nobel author (make sure it’s for literature, not peace!) is fine.
4. Make sure you choose a book that you **want to read**. This is very important! Please take time making your choice. You should all find something that you really like, with subject matter that interests you. That won’t happen if you grab a random title at the last minute. So read reviews, get recommendations from others, etc. Also, do NOT choose based on a book’s cover! Once you select a book, start reading it; and if you hate it, pick another one!
5. Choose a book that your family deems appropriate.
6. Please email me the title and author of your book **BEFORE YOU BEGIN READING IT**. In this way we will avoid possible misunderstandings ahead of time (“I thought *The Cat in the Hat* was adult fiction!”).
7. Bring your book on the first FULL day of class. You will be writing a response to the novel.
8. Have a great summer!

Some websites to help you (again, choose only ADULT FICTION):

<https://rusaupdate.org/awards/notable-books-list/>

<https://www.nationalbook.org/national-book-awards/years/>

<https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/boo>

<https://www.bookcritics.org/awards/past/>

<https://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-categories>

<https://www.thehugoawards.org/hugo-history/>

(Science fiction and fantasy)

<https://nebulas.sfwaweb.org/awards-by-year/>

(Science fiction and fantasy)

<https://edgarawards.com/category-list-best-novel/>

(Mystery fiction and nonfiction)

[https://thecwa.co.uk/past-winners?past_winners_awards\[\]=gold](https://thecwa.co.uk/past-winners?past_winners_awards[]=gold)

(The Gold Dagger—for crime novels)

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/lists/all-nobel-prizes-in-literature/>

(NOTE: The Nobel is usually awarded for a lifetime of work, so anything written by any of those prize winners is fine.)