

Senior AP English Literature and Composition

JUNE 2010

AP ENGLISH 12TH GRADERS are required to complete the following:

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. *Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy
2. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

Select **one other novel** from the attached list: The list of authors and works has been compiled using a variety of sources with a strong emphasis on the authors suggested by the College Board.

- I. Read the required novels and take notes on the following:
 1. Title and author (check spelling) and publication date
 2. Major characters (check spelling), their roles in the story and relationship summarize what drives them (motivation)
 3. Minor characters you might like to remember roles and relationships any foils?
 4. Setting (time and place)
 5. Plot summarize it briefly chart the exposition, rising action, climax, turning point, denouement, etc. note key conflicts that propel the plot
 6. Themes, big ideas (list and comment briefly on at least three)
 7. Describe at least three key scenes and why they are important
 8. Discuss the ending—is it open-ended or neatly resolved? What do the characters learn, how do they change?
 9. Narrative point of view—describe it and note how it contributes to meaning/impact
 10. Writing style—describe and offer at least two specific examples
 11. Note key symbols, motifs, and / or images—how do they contribute to meaning?
 - symbol: a person, image, word, object, color, idea, action, event, etc. that evokes meanings beyond the literal
 - motif: a recurring, unifying element (image, symbol, character type, action, phrase, etc.)
 - image: a word, phrase, or figure of speech that appeals to the senses
 12. Patterns (what goes with what, what contrasts with what?)—these might involve images, characters, events, etc.

13. Copy out at least three memorable quotes, noting page number if relevant, speaker, and context

II. Creating Test Questions

Create 15 multiple choice questions that have five options (a, b, c, d, e) as possible answers based on each of the summer reading texts. Include an answer key with page numbers from the text where the answers can be found. Include 5 questions based on character development, 5 based on plot and 5 based on stylistic elements used in the text. Questions will be graded based on grade-level appropriate academic rigor, originality and accuracy.

III. The College Application Essay

The following prompts were taken from the application packages of some well-known mainland universities. In preparation for beginning the application process, you are expected to respond to one of these prompts. To be submitted on the first day of class in a file folder.

Choose one of the prompts listed and write a draft of your response. This will be due the second week of class.

1. What work of art, music, science, mathematics, or literature has influenced your thinking, and in what way?
2. Discuss how a particular work of music, literature, or art has inspired your life.
3. Tell us how a particular book, play, film, piece of music, dance performance, scientific theory or experiment or work of art has influenced you. If you choose a novel, film or play, assume we know the plot.
4. Consider the books you have read in the last year or two either for school or for leisure. Please discuss the way in which one of them changed your understanding of the world, other people, or yourself.
5. Tell us about a situation where you have not been successful and what you have learned from the experience.

AP Reading List

You are required to select one from the list, but you are encouraged to read as many as possible.

Classical:

Oedipus Rex – Sophocles

Antigone – Sophocles (optional)

Medea – Euripides

Lysistrata – Aristophanes (optional)

The Orestia: Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides – Aeschylus

Selections from Ovid's Metamorphosis (Ted Hughes translation)

Poets: Pindar, Sappho

Poetic form: Epic, Comedy, Tragedy, Dithyramb, Lyric, Ode, Epithalamion

Medieval Period (Dark Ages circa 800 – 1266) Middle Ages (1340-1400):

Beowulf – Anonymous (translation by Seamus Heaney)

Prologue to the Canterbury Tales; The Knight's Tale, The Miller's Tale, etc. – Chaucer

The Inferno (Divine Comedy) – Dante Alighieri

Everyman -- Anonymous

Poetic form: Epic, Riddle, Ballad, Heroic couplet

Renaissance (1400 – 1660) (Elizabethan 1558-1603; Jacobean 1603-1660):

Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe

The Tempest – William Shakespeare

Titus Andronicus – William Shakespeare

King Lear – William Shakespeare

Poets: Edmund Spenser, John Donne, Ben Jonson, Cavalier poets, Metaphysical poets

Poetic form: Sonnet, Elizabethan tragedy

Neoclassical/Age of Reason (1660-1798):

The Rape of the Lock – Alexander Pope

Candide – Voltaire

Poets/Essayists: Daniel Defoe, John Dryden, Samuel Johnson, Thomas Grey, Addison & Steele, Jonathan Swift, Robert Burns, William Blake

Poetic form: Rhetoric, Satire, Blank verse

Romantic (1789-1850):

Jane Austen (various novels)

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner – Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Poets: William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, John Keats

Poetic form: Free verse, Pastoral, Ode, Gothic Romance (fiction)

Victorian (1830-1900):

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll

The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde

Poets: Tennyson, Browning (both), Arnold, Hardy, Hopkins, Housman, Kipling, Carroll, Lear, Hardy, etc.

Poetic form: Light verse, extranatural (inspirational/religious) poetry, verse poetry

Modern (Edwardian: 1900-1915) 1900-1945:

The Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka

Murder in the Cathedral – T.S. Eliot (optional)

Post Modern/Contemporary (1945 – Present)

The Loved One – Evelyn Waugh

The Once & Future King – T.H. White

Grendel – John Gardner

Equus – Peter Shaffer

A Clockwork Orange – Anthony Burgess

The Darker Face of the Earth -- Rita Dove

Creative Writing Majors & Past English classes:

Contemporary & Modern Novels:

1984, Animal Farm - George Orwell

The Old Man and The Sea, Farewell to Arms - Ernest Hemingway

The Pearl - John Steinbeck

All Quiet on the Western Front - Remarque

Song of Solomon, The Bluest Eye - Toni Morrison

The Piano Lesson, Fences - August Wilson

Animal Dreams, Bean Trees - Barbara Kingsolver

The Color Purple - Alice Walker

Fahrenheit 451, Martian Chronicles - Ray Bradbury

The Caucasian Chalk Circle - Bertolt Brecht

The Visit - Friedrich Durrenmatt

Seven Gothic Tales - Isak Dinesen

No Exit - Jean Paul Sartre

As I Lay Dying - William Faulkner

Cat's Cradle, Slaughterhouse Five - Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

For Colored Girls...Suicide is Enuf - Ntozake Shange

A Raisin in the Sun - Lorraine Hansberry

Ethan Frome - Edith Wharton

The Things They Carried, In the Lake of the Woods - Tim O'Brien

Ragtime - E.L. Doctorow

My Antonia - Willa Cather

Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston

Dubliners - James Joyce

Renaissance/Neoclassical:

Hamlet, Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night, Midsummer Nights' Dream, Romeo & Juliet, Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar, Macbeth, etc. - William Shakespeare

The Misanthrope - Moliere

Woyzeck - Georg Bruchner

Romantic/Victorian/Realism:

House of Seven Gables/Scarlet Letter - Hawthorne

A Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens

A Doll's House - Henrik Ibsen

The Seagull - Anton Chekhov

Crime & Punishment - Dostoevsky

Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain

The Awakening - Kate Chopin

Miss Julie - August Stringberg