

June 2022

Dear Student,

You have elected to study 12 AP English Literature and Composition this coming academic year. This is a college course that stresses challenging reading, in-depth analysis, and advanced written responses. You will be reading novels, plays, poems, etc. by great authors from various time periods.

The AP Literature course is a demanding as well as rewarding one, and you are to be congratulated for your initiative. The work listed below is required summer reading for all AP students.

READINGS: While not required, it is suggested that you purchase your own copy of the novel so that you can make notations concerning style, characters, plot, themes, rhetoric, literary devices, and whatever else strikes you as important in remembering the piece of literature for further discussion. Post-its are a great way to keep track of ideas as well. The assignment will be collected and graded in the first **week** of school. Final assessment for the summer assignment will result in at least one essay based on the novel during the first two weeks of school.

AP Literature Summer Selections

Copies available at MacArthur Library

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison (*African American*)

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (*Bangladeshi American*)

Jasmine by Bharati Mukherjee (*Indian American*)

The following can be obtained at the Levittown Public Library, any public library, or purchased on your own

The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz (*Dominican American*)

Under the Feet of Jesus by Maria Viamontes (*about Mexican migrants*)

There There by Tommy Orange (*Native American*)

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen (*Vietnamese*)

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (*Afghani*)

Bone: a Novel by Fae Myenne Ng (*Chinese American*)

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (*Nigerian*)

1. ***Song of Solomon*** by Toni Morrison: Based on the African-American folktale about enslaved Africans who escape slavery by flying back to Africa, it tells the story of Macon "Milkman" Dead, a young man alienated from himself and estranged from his family, his community, and his historical and cultural roots
2. ***The Namesake*** by Jhumpa Lahiri: Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.
3. ***Jasmine*** by Bharati Mukherjee: A young Indian woman in the United States who, trying to adapt to the American way of life in order to be able to survive, changes identities several times.
4. ***The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** by Junot Diaz: *The book chronicles both the life of Oscar de León, an overweight Dominican boy growing up in Paterson, New Jersey, who is obsessed with science fiction and fantasy novels and with falling in love, as well as a curse that has plagued his family for generations.*
5. ***Under the Feet of Jesus*** by Maria Viamontes: A moving and powerful novel about the lives of the men, women, and children who endure a second-class existence and labor under dangerous conditions as migrant workers in California's fields. At the center of this powerful tale is Estrella, a girl about to cross the perilous border to womanhood.
6. ***There There*** by Tommy Orange: A large cast of Native Americans living in the Oakland, California area and contains several essays on Native American history and identity. The characters struggle with a wide array of challenges. All of the characters unite at a community powwow and its attempted robbery.
7. ***The Sympathizer*** by Viet Thanh Nguyen: The story depicts the anonymous narrator, a North Vietnamese mole in the South Vietnamese army, who stays embedded in a South Vietnamese community in exile in the United States.
8. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** by Khaled Hosseini: Mariam, an illegitimate teenager from Herat, is forced to marry a shoemaker from Kabul after a family tragedy. Laila, born a generation later, lives a relatively privileged life, but her life intersects with Mariam's when a similar tragedy forces her to accept a marriage proposal from Mariam's husband.
9. ***Bone: a Novel*** by Fae Myenne Ng: *Takes readers into the hidden heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, to a world of family secrets, hidden shames, and the lost bones of a "paper father." It is a world in which two generations of the Leong family live in an uneasy tension as they try to fathom the source of the middle daughter Ona's sorrow.*
10. ***Purple Hibiscus*** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: Set in postcolonial Nigeria, a country beset by political instability and economic difficulties. The central character is Kambili Achike, aged fifteen. Told through Kambili's eyes and is essentially about the disintegration of her family unit and her struggle to grow to maturity.

ASSIGNMENT:

In The Writing of Fiction (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following. At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity. Choose 5 “illuminating” episodes or moments that function as a “casement,” a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole.

Choose a novel *from the list attached* and annotate 5 scenes you feel best support the prompt. Scenes can be from 1- 4 pages long. Photocopy or take a picture and print so you can annotate. All annotations must demonstrate **meaningful dialogue** with the text. This means that notes reflect a thorough analysis of what this scene is “illuminating”. What are the bigger ideas/themes being conveyed? Underlining and highlighting, while important, do not solely demonstrate this type of interaction. It will be your handwritten notes in margins and due to limited space in margins, any additional notes on a separate document that show meaningful engagement with the text. You will submit your scenes with annotations when we return. A sample is shown below of how to annotate a text (note* additional notes and theme connections have not been included)

ANNOTATING means marking the page as you read with comments or notes. Marking key ideas will enable you to discuss the reading with more support, evidence, and proof than if you rely on memory.

Use highlighting and underlining sparingly. Never underline or highlight something without including a written note that explains the reason for its significance. Feel free to use different color pens, highlighters or any other symbols to help keep you organized.

Mark key passages, words, or descriptions:

1. Any time you read a section that is significant to the plot or character development, underline it and write a brief note to yourself in the margin describing the section and/or why it is important.

React to what you read:

2. If something in the text strikes you, surprises you, troubles you, or even makes you laugh, mark it and write your reaction in the margin. Make predictions, characterizations and record questions you may have. Often these passages are intentionally written to elicit such a response, so they can prove important later.

Track themes:

3. As you read, you will begin to discern the text’s topics/themes. Begin marking them every time they occur. This is especially valuable when it comes time to write an essay

on the book. Themes are often developed through the characters, point of view, symbols, setting, etc.

Label Literary Elements, Figurative Language, Diction:

4. When you come across literary devices, underline/highlight/bracket them and label them. Literary devices include things like symbols, motifs, foreshadowing, and any figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration, imagery, etc.).
5. Diction (effective or unusual word choice) Syntax (order or words, phrases, or sentences; punctuation)

Notes at the end of each scene:

6. You should take a few minutes at the end of each one to list its most important plot events. That way, when you remember a key plot event but do not remember where in the text it occurs, or when you cannot recall which event occurs before which, you have a resource for easy reference instead of having to thumb through the entire book.

Happy reading! Have a great summer!

Ms. D'Amico / Ms. Roddini

Tone: Celebratory
Admiration

Form: Freeform
Broken down
resembles
Sonnet

Digging = extended metaphor of digging and roots.
Heaney digs into his roots, his heritage

Language: technical
Colloquial
Conversational
monosyllables

Digging

Opening - coming to terms with self? home
Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; as snug as a gun.

Power
violence?
protection
A natural extension?
rasping connotes a
living thing

Speaker: male
patriarchal traditions
reverent attitude

his window -
ownership
threshold to
his heritage

In rhythm =
In touch with
in agreement
with

Memory #1

Under my window a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down - remembering / to look down on has negative con. but the poem is positive + celebratory

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

Connections with the past, former generations, traditions survival
warrith potatoes nourishment

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

in control, precise
skill, pride, dignity
-bragging rights

Symbol: peat
living roots
digging
squat pen
Why squat?
crouching
ownership

Admiration
Colloquial
language

Transition

By God, the old man could handle a spade,
Just like his old man.

Memory #2

My grandfather could cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, digging down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

worked hard - work ethics
strength - technique

Turning Point
heritage

The cold smell of potato mold, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

- negative images
traditions / livelihoods destroyed
No longer available

an awakening
of what?

Follow in what way?

Closure - Acceptance

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

- weapon - tool

Follows tradition of fathers
using the tools available
to him.

Seamus Heaney

Reminders of home
+ hearth
rests, snug,
nestled

2 separate memories:

Father digging potatoes
Grand father digging turf - peat bogs

The pen is mightier than the sword.

Onomatopoeia
rasping
squelch
slap
gravelly