

AP Literature & Composition 2020-2021 Summer Assignment

Ms. Hawkins and Mrs. Garner

(1) Select one of the following books from the list below.

Each book is a *bildungsroman* or coming of age novel. It is strongly recommended that you research your novel before making a final decision. Remember, this is a college-level course with college-level content. All works listed are suggested by the College Board, but some novels discuss controversial, adult material.

Jasmine - Bharati Mukherjee

The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan

The Namesake - Jhumpa Lahiri

The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd

The Kite Runner - Khaled Hoseinni

Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston

A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled Hoseinni

(2) After selecting your summer reading piece, fill out the Google Form below to let us know your selection. We recommend ordering a copy of the book online to save some money.

If you are unable to order your own copy of the book due to financial difficulties, still complete the Google Form with the book you would like to read. After completing the Google Form, email us to let us know you need assistance, and we will get you a copy of your selected book. Our emails are listed at the end of this document.

<https://forms.gle/qjHunFpKEVcGctWE8>

(3) Follow our GV AP Lit Instagram for reminders and updates over the summer and throughout. Follow us @aplit_gvhs

(4) Complete the following assignments with your summer reading piece:

a. Annotate your physical copy of the book. Feel free to use highlighters, sticky notes, and/or write in the margins. You will turn in the annotated copy of your book at the beginning of the school year.

When annotating, look for quotes or passages that relate to or reveal something significant about what we refer to as the “AP Lit Skills”:

- Character
- Setting
- Structure
- Narration

- Figurative Language (Word Choice, Image, Symbol, Metaphor, Personification, Allusion)

Try to connect these annotations to possible themes in the novel. Don't annotate in a vacuum. Identify something significant in the text, and in your annotation try to explain *why* it's significant.

b. Throughout the summer, we will have **two** virtual book talks. These will be to discuss your thoughts on the book and to help guide your analysis. Think of these as virtual book clubs.

- Book Talk 1 - Week of July 13 - 17
- Book Talk 2 - Week of August 3 - 7

Keep an eye on your email and our Instagram over the summer for information on scheduling the book talks. Once we know the specifics of how many people signed up for each piece, we will begin scheduling those meetings.

c. On the first day of school, Monday, August 10, you must bring in a typed, double-spaced paper responding to the following:

- Identify a single, pivotal moment in the moral or psychological development of the protagonist. What moment would you choose, and why is it significant? Your response to this must be at least two full paragraphs.
- Identify what you imagine would be the meaning of the work as a whole. This **must** be a complete thematic statement or sentence. The meaning of the work as a whole or theme will **never** be just one word.

Last year students were confused about the length requirements. This does *not* need to be a full length essay. You are only responsible for writing and submitting two full paragraphs about the pivotal moment of your choice and then one additional sentence identifying the meaning of the work as a whole.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us over the summer. We look forward to a great year of AP Lit!

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