

AP Literature Summer Assignments 2011

Yes, you read that correctly, “Summer Assignments.” Plural. And it doesn’t say “Summer Reading Assignments.” There is writing involved. In an effort to keep you active as readers, broaden your horizons, and forestall summer brain death, I have selected several texts and related assignments that (if you’re not very careful) you really might find enjoyable and beneficial. Within this newsletter, you will find several suggestions for completing this work...not the least of which is a recommended sequence. The primary “suggestion” is this: do not, do not, DO NOT wait until the weekend before you return to school to begin this work. Should you do so, your regret will be of a magnitude without parallel in the universe. Trust me on this. All of it.

PART I

Read Dr. Adler’s essay, “How to Mark a Book” (attached as a PDF file to the main summer reading list). Formally, we call this “annotation,” and it is not only recommended...it is REQUIRED for Part II of your summer assignment.

That being said, marking a book is certainly an activity that is personal and unique to you as an individual. It is important that you create a system that works well for you ~ consider the possibilities of highlighters, colored pens or pencils, and post-it notes as some of your options. Your personal book-marking system will develop over time. The following is an ANNOTATION RUBRIC which will guide you in your work (and upon which your annotation for the summer reading will be assessed):

5 The text is extensively highlighted or underlined with many margin notes in addition to shorthand notations. The annotations demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered the text’s meaning. The margin notes serve as an abbreviated outline of what the text says and what the reader thinks about it.

4 The text is extensively highlighted or underlined with fewer margin notes compared to the most carefully considered readings. Shorthand notations are present. The annotations which are there demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered the text’s meaning.

3 The text is less extensively highlighted or underlined with some margin notes and shorthand markings. The annotations demonstrate a less thorough reading of the work than the top two ratings.

2 The text is highlighted or underlined and the student uses shorthand markings. There are virtually no margin notes; consequently, it is impossible to determine how thorough the reading of the text has been.

1 Only shorthand margin notations are used or part of the text is unmarked or there are so few notations overall that the text may not have been read completely.

0 The text is unmarked.

PART II: Annotation of the texts

Read and annotate *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison **AND** *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy **AND** *Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. During the first week of class, while you are completing an in-class writing assignment on a practice AP test, Ms. Steele will wander the classroom thumbing through these books. She will be looking for evidence that you have interacted with the summer reading texts. If you "skimmed" the article about Dr. Adler's essay, go back and READ IT NOW. One of the first grades you receive for AP English Literature and Composition will be for completing annotation of the three books you read over the summer.

PART III: Essay

Please compose a well-developed 5 page (MLA formatted) essay answering the following question:

AP open response essays will often ask you to explore the impact of how an author arranges details, how the author's language creates a particular atmosphere in the writing, how the author appeals to the reader's senses, or how the author creates a sense of character. This essay asks you to keep these topics in mind. Please choose one of the topics listed above and compare/contrast the three novels you read over the summer to argue which tells the most effective and compelling story based upon that topic. Be sure to give specific textual evidence from all three novels within your argument.