

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING 2024**

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Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. I'm excited to meet you and look forward to exploring classic and contemporary works of poetry and fiction with you and hearing your original insights. I hope you will genuinely invest time this summer in the first major work we shall discuss, **Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West***.

Assignment:

Purchase a hard copy of the book *Exit West* and a spiral notebook. After each of the twelve chapters, complete the analysis (described below) in your notebook. Your notes should reflect your unique processing of the text, incorporating both comprehension and analysis. Do not work with others or consult the Internet. We will collaborate during the first week of school, and I want everyone to have their own original ideas to share at that time.

Chapter Analysis

After each chapter, complete the following in your spiral notebook:

Chapter Number: 1-12

Characterization of Saeed: Make a claim about the character Saeed, based on details from this chapter. Then quote and comment on evidence from this chapter to support your claim. (1-2 paragraphs)

Characterization of Nadia: Make a claim about the character Nadia, based on details from this chapter. Then quote and comment on evidence from this chapter to support your claim. (1-2 paragraphs)

Setting: Identify and describe significant details about the setting. (These can be notes, rather than paragraph form.)

Significant Plot: Note significant plot points/events from this chapter. (*What happened?* These can be notes, rather than paragraph form.)

Compelling Comparisons/Contrasts: Identify and describe any comparisons or contrasts that emerged in this chapter. These may be major or minor in importance and might be related to earlier chapters or contained within the chapter. If you don't notice anything that applies in this chapter, you may skip this element, but you should have at least 4 instances total in your notebook.

Potential Symbols/Themes: Identify and describe any potential symbols or themes that emerge and/or continue to operate in this chapter. For symbols, be sure to identify not just the symbol but what you believe it symbolizes. For theme, what ideas seem to be of universal importance, as in larger than just this text? How are they operating in this specific chapter. (This doesn't have to be in paragraph form. You could just check in with notes on your ideas after each chapter.)

One Gorgeous Sentence: I chose this novel in particular because there were repeated moments that the sentence composition stopped me in my reading and compelled me to "unpack" the writer's sentence structure. For each chapter, I want you to be on the lookout for one such sentence that you feel is so effectively composed that it is worth copying down and studying later. Just quote that entire sentence in your notebook, and we will work with some of these in class this year to improve our composition skills.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me at aramos@pasco.k12.fl.us

Grades/Expectations:

Bring your book and notebook to the first day of class to earn credit for the summer work.

There will be an FRQ assessment in the second week of class, which will count as your first test grade.

You will also be expected to engage in small group discussions and presentations on the novel in the first weeks of the course, so please don't wait until the course begins to start this assignment or you'll likely struggle in those collaborative situations.

Recommended/Optional:

How To Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster is a helpful introduction to this course. I recommend this additional summer reading especially to those who are less than confident about taking AP Literature, for example those who haven't yet mastered the shift from mere comprehension of a text to deeper analysis.

Additionally, the AP exam for this course asks students to respond to essay prompts by drawing from works of literary merit they have studied. The more literature you have read, the better your ability to summon familiar characters, ideas, and themes that you can analyze on command. If you can read more than the minimum this summer, your investment will certainly pay off in May.

Here is a list of commonly recommended books for AP Literature:

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevski
King Lear by William Shakespeare
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Billy Budd by Herman Melville
Light in August by William Faulkner
Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Othello by William Shakespeare
Antigone by Sophocles
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
Native Son by Richard Wright
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Candide by Voltaire
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard
Sula by Toni Morrison
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen
All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren
Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
Medea by Euripides
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
The Tempest by William Shakespeare
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee
Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen
Equus by Peter Shaffer
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw
Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot
Obasan by Joy Kogawa
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov
Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe
Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
Middlemarch by George Eliot
Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw
Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Tom Jones by Henry Fielding
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor