

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING 2025

Teacher: Amy Ramos
Email: aramos@pasco.k12.fl.us

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, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

Assignment:

Purchase a hard copy of the book *The Nickel Boys*.

At least once after each chapter, stop and record your insights/ideas, either in the book itself or on paper. We will collaborate during the first weeks of school, and I want everyone to have their own original ideas to share at that time. These notes do not need to be formal. I just want you to remember the ideas and reactions you had as you read the book and which details you found compelling.

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

Grades/Expectations:

Bring your book and reaction notes to the first day of class.

There will be a timed, in class FRQ assessment in the second week of class, which will count as your first test grade. You will be allowed to use your book and notes as you write that essay response.

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
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
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
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Sula by Toni Morrison
A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
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
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Obasan by Joy Kogawa
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
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
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee