

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION  
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026**

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. Look forward to exploring great literary works of fiction and poetry and sharing your original insights in this college-level course. To prepare, you will read and annotate **at least** one major work this summer:

Choose **at least one** of the following novels:

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Assessment:**

In the first week of class, there will be a written test that asks you to respond to a prompt by discussing a specific element from a novel and your interpretations of the novel's overall meaning. You will be required to write about one of these three novels, so the more you read the more options you will have. (The prompt will work for any of these novels.)

**Annotations:**

Obtain a physical copy of the book.

Annotate as you read.

Your **hand-written** notes should reflect your unique processing of the text—with questions, claims, and/or insights in the margins.

Your ideas can be collected on loose-leaf (with page numbers cited), on sticky notes placed in the book, or written directly in the margins of the text. Focus on characterization, details about setting, turning points in the plot, compelling contrasts, symbols, and themes. What *feels* important, and why? What ideas do you have as you read?

Your annotations will be graded in the first week of class.

**Optional Poetry Preview:**

Students who want an additional preview of AP Literature should consider reading poetry by any of the poets below. Notice how poetry uses language, image, sound, and structure to create meaning.

<b>Poet:</b>	<b>What to Notice:</b>
Emily Dickinson	compressed language; themes of death, faith, uncertainty, identity
Langston Hughes	speaker's voice; themes of dreams, justice, music, identity
Sylvia Plath	imagery, speaker, tone/emotion, psychological intensity
Robert Frost	ambiguity; deceptively simple language; themes of nature, choices
Mary Oliver	themes of nature, wonder, attention, reflection
Ocean Vuong	lyric intensity; imagery; themes of memory, identity, family

Email [aramos@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:aramos@pasco.k12.fl.us) if you have any questions/concerns. Happy reading!