

Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition
Summer Reading

Due: Monday September 11 2023

Summer Assignment Part 1 - Fiction Assignment

You will read a total of two books (detailed below) and complete an [“Essential Literary Synopsis”](#) for EACH book. When completing the synopses, be sure to fit all of your information in the space provided (do not increase the size of any boxes). I suggest printing out two copies and filling them in by hand, but you can type if you prefer.

Book 1 -- Choose ONE of the following works that were written before 1900:

- *Medea* by Euripides (431 BC) [I suggest the 2006 translation by Michael Collier ISBN: 9780195145663]
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare (c. 1606)
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (1813)
- *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert (1857)
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens (1859)
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin (1899)

Book 2 -- Choose ONE of the following works that were written after 1900:

- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller (1949)
- *The Last of the Menu Girls* by Denise Chavez (1986)
- *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (1989)
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2003)
- *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (2005)
- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead (2019)

Summer Assignment Part 2 - Poetry Assignment -- LIVING POETS

Look up a living poet and explore his or her work. Read as many poems by your chosen poet as you can, and then choose ONE poem and respond to the following prompt (responses should be between 250-500 words. Be concise but not unnecessarily brief):

Philosopher Dewitt Parker wrote in his book *The Principles of Aesthetics*, “Even when ostensibly directed to some particular person, a poem has an audience which is really universal...Art is autonomous expression meant to be contagious.” How does the poem that you have chosen reflect this universal, contagious nature of art? You may wish to consider the theme, imagery, rhythm, and techniques that the poet employs.

Email me if you have any questions about either part of the assignment (both are mandatory)

jballiro@achs.net