

The Pallotti High School English Summer Reading List and Assignments 2019

Scroll down to your class below, read the book(s) listed under your class and complete the assignments provided. Most of the assessments are essays; in a few cases, there will be a test on a book *and* an essay on a second book (in Honors Literary Criticism and AP Literature). To lend credence to your essays, use evidence from the text (i.e., quotes, short passages) to support your claims and write in complete sentences. *A number of these assignments are due on the first day of classes, others shortly thereafter.* Please be sure that you are completing the summer work for **your** class. Proofread closely. Happy reading and writing! Seize the books!

Introduction to Literature Summer (Freshmen) **Honors Introduction to Literature (Freshmen)**

J.R.R. Tolkien *The Hobbit*

Quest literature often features a character that evolves due to a series of discoveries and adventures/misadventures. Read *The Hobbit*. In your own opinion, what are the three most important discoveries/experiences of Bilbo Baggins? Why? How do they change him going forward, bringing him to where he is at novel's end?

Essays should be 5 paragraphs in length, with

- A **thesis paragraph** in which you present your argument (your answer to the question in the prompt)
- Three (3) body paragraphs** in which you present and explain evidence to support your thesis
- A **concluding paragraph** in which you demonstrate how your evidence has proven your thesis

Essays must be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and should be double-spaced.

When referencing evidence from the text and when presenting quotations, cite the text by placing the page number in parentheses after the sentence.

DUE DATE: A hard copy of the essay will be due to the instructor on the first day of school. In class, students will be shown how to upload the essay to turnitin.com.

American Literature (Sophomores) **Honors American Literature (Sophomores)** Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Write one five-paragraph essay using the following prompt:

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee paints a richly detailed picture of life in Maycomb, Alabama in the early 1930s. Discuss three aspects of the culture of the town that you find to be important. For example, you might discuss the importance of family, the role of the church in the African American community, the educational system and values, and so forth. In your answer, you should discuss specific passages in the text and show how they support your answer.

The essay should include a proper introduction, three body paragraphs with evidence drawn from the text, and a conclusion.

Please note that as in all work you will do in American Literature, you must scrupulously avoid any use of study guides, e.g., Shmoop, Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, Wikipedia, etc. Do not use any unattributed work of others (plagiarism), and do not engage in any copying whatsoever from other individuals.

You will receive instructions on submitting your essays through turnitin.com in the first week of class.

Format Directions:

Paper should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman, with 1" margins. All writing is expected to be proofread, and relatively free of spelling and grammar errors.

British Literature (Juniors)

Honors British Literature (Juniors)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon**

Read the novel. Write an essay, double-spaced, 3 pages (5 paragraphs) in length. Quote evidence from the novel and let your novel be *your only source*. Note the page numbers from which your quotes come (use parenthetical citations). Pick one of the topics below. Your essay will need a funneling introduction that works from broad to specific (your **thesis**), 3 body paragraphs (each with clear topic sentences) featuring quotes from the book, and a conclusion that reiterates your thesis. Regarding formatting and good visuals for MLA documentation, go to this link: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/>. Your teacher will walk you through the turnitin.com submission. Thus, do not use Sparknotes, Wikipedia, or any other study guides. Read, think, and write independently. There will be paper and electronic submissions. The paper version is due on the first day of classes.

Essay Options for *Curious Incident*

Pick *one* of the following 3 topics for your essay. Please address all parts of the prompt. Pay close attention to phrases like “the meaning of the work as a whole.” Responding to this part might require an additional paragraph of thought. Frequently, this part is asking you to analyze “the bigger picture” that the writer would like you to see. Instead of a “bare bones” response, try to offer a response that deals with the significance of your observation (Why does this matter?) and makes connections.

1. The novelist Edith Wharton once said the following:

At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.

Taking Mark Haddon’s *Curious Incident* into account, describe an illuminating incident (event) from the novel and explain how it functions as a casement (a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole). What watershed/significant event is potentially the key for understanding the entire novel? Avoid as much plot summary as possible.

2. Choose a character (e.g., Christopher Boone) from *Curious Incident* who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole. These 3 parts should inform the structure of the essay.

3. Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Take the acts of betrayal from *Curious Incident* into consideration. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

AP English Language and Composition (Juniors and Seniors) Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! The AP English Language course emphasizes a mix of politics, history, social sciences, current events and non-fiction prose. This class is different from most English classes you have taken before; it will ask you to analyze writing, develop sound reasoning and argumentation, as well as to examine the power of language. The assignments below will help to prepare you for what we will cover this year. **Everything should be printed out and neatly organized into folder. It will be collected on the first day of school and will count for a substantial portion of your first quarter grade.** Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need help (mlancaster@pallottihs.org).

I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Have a fantastic summer.

Part I: Letter of Introduction

To help me get to know you, please write me a brief letter of introduction (one to two pages double-spaced). Please keep in mind that *how* you write is just as important as *what* you write. Your letter should answer the following:

- a. Who are you, anyway? What do you like to do in your spare time? What do you love and value? What makes you different from all the other crazy people on this planet?
- b. Why are you taking AP English Language and Composition? What do you hope to get out of this class?
- c. What are your expectations for me as your teacher? What kinds of things do you hope we'll do this year? What kinds of things will make you cringe?
- d. What are your expectations for yourself? What do you want to accomplish this year? Before you graduate high school? Before you depart for whatever comes after this life?
- e. Is there anything else you feel I should know about you before we begin this adventure together?

Part II: Read 2 of the following 3 works of Non-Fiction:

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama

Educated by Tara Westover

The books above are all non-fiction memoirs, and much of what you read in this course will be non-fiction. Read any 2 of the books above and complete #1-#3 for each book.

1. **Identify five unfamiliar words in each book.** For each word, type up:
 - a) the sentence in which you found it along with the page number
 - b) the definition of the word within the book's context (look it up)
 - c) an original sentence using the word
2. **Identify the five most interesting passages in each book (a passage may be anything from one paragraph to one page in length).** For each passage, you should type up the passage along with its page number and then write a one paragraph

response in which you explain what appealed (or didn't appeal) to you in the passage and your thoughts about it.

3. **Write an essay** in which you compare and contrast the two books in light of at least 3 of the following: conflicts faced by the main characters, themes addressed by each writer, the use of irony, writing styles, and points of view. You should follow the five-paragraph format and include at least six direct quotes with parenthetical citations from the books.

Part III: News Portfolio

Becoming an informed observer of the world around you will help you to succeed in this class, on the AP exam and, most importantly, in your life as an engaged and thoughtful member of society. To that end, you are encouraged to begin following the news this summer and will be required to turn in a news portfolio when you return to school.

- The portfolio should include **at least 10 news stories** (either clipped from the paper/magazine or printed from an online source) from the summer.
- Each story should be accompanied by a **one-paragraph reflection** discussing your reaction to this information and why this story drew your attention.
- Everything should be neatly organized, by date of the news story, into your folder or three-ring binder.
- Your chosen stories must reflect the news from different points throughout the summer. You have about 10 weeks off; I suggest you choose one story each week.
- You are encouraged to draw from a variety of news sources, types of media (print, broadcast and online) and types of stories. If you don't know where to start, begin with *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post*. Also check out CNN, CBS, ABC and BBC News on TV, National Public Radio (88.5 fm in the DC area, 88.1 in Baltimore) and *The Guardian*, Associated Press and Reuters online. All sources must be originally published in English.
- You may select any story that has educational value. This will immediately rule out many sports and entertainment stories that simply give the highlights of a game or discuss what Beyoncé wore at her latest concert. There are, however, plenty of thoughtful stories that delve more deeply into the politics, economics and culture of the sports and entertainment industries; those are fair game.

What to do if you will be away for the summer and will not have access to national or international news sources in English:

- Access articles online.
- Use the public library before you go and when you get home; they keep back issues of publications for a certain amount of time.
- Ask a friend or family member to save issues of newspapers or magazines for you.
- Subscribe to a news magazine, like Time or Newsweek, and catch up when you get home.
- Find major publications, like *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*, which are widely available in large cities around the world. Starbucks often has copies.

Senior English Courses

Senior Literature

Essay: In a well-developed 5-paragraph essay (**with an intro with a thesis, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion that should reach at least three pages typed and double-spaced**) consisting of complete sentences, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, respond to the following prompt:

In THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW by S. E. Hinton, Bryon turns his best friend Mark over to the authorities near the end of the story. **Explain why he made this choice, how this choice changed his life, and the effect it had on their friendship.** Use specific examples and quotations from the novel to answer this question. Your essay should be written in the 3rd person (they); do not use the second person (you) or the first person (I).

AP English Literature and Composition (Seniors) Honors Literary Criticism (Seniors) Summer Readings and Assignments

Welcome to your senior English class. In AP Literature and Honors Literary Criticism we will read a wide range of classics—plays, novels, and poetry. In addition to plots, authors, characterization, and settings, we will be interested in the literary devices that writers use to convey meaning—irony, tone, diction, and others. Also consider this: what are the hallmarks of a successful writer of essays? What does he/she practice by habit? The summer selections are novels. The biggest assessments throughout the year are essays and tests. The mission is to hone the skills that will prepare you for papers, tests, and exams which you encounter throughout your academic journey. One aspect of writing we will emphasize is using literary present tense **in essays**. For example, use “Beowulf is a hero,” not “Beowulf was a hero.” Write “Beowulf’s decision to fight Grendel is a brave one” instead of “was a brave one.” Similarly, “Beowulf slays the dragon but dies from a venomous bite.” In your summer **essays**, practice writing in **present tense**. Always respect your thesis and topic sentences. Enjoy the books! Students who

read a great deal tend to fare especially well on standardized tests and essays. Reading becomes for them a sixth sense. Best of luck this year!

A. Read *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis. You will be tested on this novel in the first week.

B. Read the novel *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines. As you read, focus on characters, themes, conflicts, point of view, irony, and other aspects of this classic. Give consideration to how Jefferson and Grant Wiggins are characterized throughout the novel. By definition, a round character is a character who grows exponentially over the course of the novel. He/She gains important self-knowledge through experiences which make him/her whole, 3-dimensional. Select a character from the novel which you consider to be round. What causes the growth in the character? What epiphany does the character experience? In a 5-6-paragraph essay, explain the evolution of this round character and how this evolution illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

Please address all parts of the prompt. Pay close attention to phrases like “the meaning of the work as a whole.” Responding to this part might require an additional paragraph of thought. Frequently, this part is asking you to analyze “the bigger picture” that the writer would like you to see. Try to offer a response that deals with the significance of your observations in relation to the whole book. I will not ask to see an outline, but it might be helpful to sketch one up so that you have some guidance while writing. Your thesis should be reflected in the body and topic sentences. The essay should be double-spaced with 12-point font and one-inch margins. For this type of essay you will need to rely on examples and specifics from the book to support your claims. You will not be using quotes. Submit this essay on the first day of classes. There will also be an electronic submission in class.