

May, 2010

Thank you for your interest in AP English IV. To prepare for this course, you are expected to read two thematically connected novels for your Senior Thesis in the fall. The attached list suggests possible titles, grouped by theme. Since this assignment is intended to expand your reading experience, you may not select any novel that you have previously read.

You may buy these books cheaply at doverpublications.com, half.com, amazon.com, or Half Price Books. You may also find copies at our local book stores or check out your chosen works from the public library. If these options are not viable, we do have a limited number of some titles available at school, but these may not be annotated or marked in any way.

As you read these novels, you are expected to take detailed notes:

- ❖ investigate the authors and the works on the Internet (our library website will be operational throughout the summer) or at the public library
- ❖ describe elements of the text, such as plot, setting, characterization, tone that help you discover theme, purpose and meaning
- ❖ ask questions of the text
- ❖ note the author's use of rhetorical devices, such as symbolism, irony and imagery, to make meaning
- ❖ use tape flags or sticky notes to mark particular passages to include (by page number) in your notes

Most of all, *think* about each novel, *in context*, and draw *your own* conclusions about it, considering the following controlling questions:

1. WHAT has the author accomplished (in a scene, through a character, in a setting, as a whole throughout the novel)?
2. WHO serves as the "moral center" of the story?
3. WHY did the author write the novel (what is the occasion)? What is the driving issue behind the story?
4. HOW (using rhetorical devices, description, characterization, setting, point of view, narrative pace, tone, mood) does the author do what he/she does?
5. WHAT SPEAKS TO YOU?

Your notes on your novels are for a grade. You must turn them in during the first week of class. The notes should be your own observations, not taken from outside sources. Your notes may be used on the summer reading assessment.

Trust in your own ability to discern and understand what is going on in the text. Only then should you clutter your thoughts with another writer's interpretation or ideas. You will have far more original ideas than any of the "study guides," and since you will be writing a detailed analytical essay when you return to school in the fall, it is in your best interest to actually read the novels.

Please sign the bottom portion of this letter and return to your English teacher. Procure your books as soon as possible, and begin reading.

I look forward to working with you next year!

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I agree to complete the summer reading assignment before the start of school in August, 2010, in preparation for Advanced Placement English IV at Leander High School. I understand that if I choose not to read my novels, I will seriously diminish my chances of passing the first six-weeks of the course and compromise my preparation for my Senior Thesis. I am aware that, once school starts, I cannot drop AP English IV until the end of the third week of class, when my grade will be transferred to English IV.

Signature

Date

AP English IV Summer Reading List (2010)

Read two novels from one of the following groups or pairs.

Do not select a novel you have previously read.

Do not select two novels by the same author.

- *The Purple Hibiscus (Adichie)/ Things Fall Apart (Achebe)/ The Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)*
- *Cry the Beloved Country (Paton)/ Things Fall Apart (Achebe)/ Go Tell It On the Mountain (Baldwin)*
- *Anna Karenina (Tolstoy)/ The Awakening (Chopin)/ A Doll's House (Ibsen)/ Madame Bovary (Flaubert)/ Ethan Frome (Wharton)*
- *The Color Purple (Walker)/ Beloved (Morrison)/ Sula (Morrison)/ The Bluest Eye (Morrison)/ The Heart of a Woman (Angelou)/ I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (Angelou)/ Song of Solomon (Morrison)*
- *A Raisin in the Sun (Hansberry)/ Native Son (Wright)/ Black Boy (Wright)
A Lesson Before Dying (Gaines)/ Invisible Man (Ellison)*
- *The Catcher in the Rye (Salinger)/ The Bell Jar (Plath)/Member of the Wedding (McCullers)/*
- *Great Expectations (Dickens)/ All the Pretty Horses (McCarthy)/ The Chosen (Potok) Montana, 1948 (Watson)*
- *The Catcher in the Rye (Salinger)/ One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Kesey)*
- *Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)/ Dr. Faustus (Marlowe)/ The Trial (Kafka)/ The Stranger (Camus)*
- *The Things They Carried (O'Brien)/ For Whom the Bell Tolls (Hemingway)/ Catch-22 (Heller)/ Slaughterhouse Five (Vonnegut)*
- *The Joy Luck Club(Tan)/ The Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)*
- *A Separate Peace (Knowles)/ The Kite Runner (Hosseini)*
- *Dreaming in Cuban (Garcia)/The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (Diaz)*
- *King Lear (Shakespeare)/ A Thousand Acres (Smiley)*
- *Obasan (Kogawa)/ Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson)*
- *Bless Me, Ultima (Anaya)/ One-Hundred Years of Solitude (Garcia Marquez)*
- *Ceremony (Silko)/ House Made of Dawn (Momaday)*
- *Wuthering Heights (E. Bronte)/ Jane Eyre (C. Bronte)*
- *Long Day's Journey Into Night (O'Neill)/ Oedipus Rex (Sophocles)*
- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Hardy)/ Their Eyes Were Watching God (Hurston)*
- *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (Solzhenitsyn)/ Brothers Karamazov (Dostoyevsky)*

- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (Spark)/ The Blind Assassin (Atwood)*
- *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Albee)/ A Streetcar Named Desire (Williams)*
- *Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)/ Frankenstein (Shelley)*
- *Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare)/The Age of Innocence (Wharton)*
- *The Jungle (Sinclair)/ Hard Times (Dickens)*
- *The Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)/One Hundred Years of Solitude (Garcia Marquez)*
- *The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)/ Cider House Rules*
- *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (Dick)/ Frankenstein (Shelley)*
- *The Joy Luck Club (Tan)/ Like Water for Chocolate (Esquivel)*
- *Catch 22 (Heller)/One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Kesey)*
- *David Copperfield (Dickens)/ Catcher in the Rye (Salinger)*
- *Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Wilson)/ Blood on the Forge (Attaway)*
- *Dracula (Bram Stoker)/ Portrait of Dorian Gray (Wilde)*
- *Washington Square (James)/Pride and Prejudice (Austen)*
- *The Left Hand of Darkness (Le Guin)/ Brave New World (Huxley)*