



Leander ISD Pre-AP English II Novel List and Summer Assignment 2017

Welcome readers and writers to Pre-AP English II! We look forward to working with you during the next school year. As part of this course, students will read and annotate a novel during the summer.

The Pre-AP, AP, or IB English summer reading assignment is an established convention at most schools offering these courses, and the rationale for it seems simple enough: Reading over the summer helps keep the students' minds "in the game," and it adds to the number of major literary works the students will have read by the time they take their AP exams. Also, students in a given class arrive to school in August having had a common literary experience, providing them and their teacher immediate instructional opportunities.

STEPS TO SUCCESS:

STEP 1

Please select **one** of the following novels to read over the summer. This list reflects a variety of genres and selections from both contemporary and classic novels. Additionally, these books were chosen for their literary merit and to help students become widely read in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exams they will take later in high school.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Some of the titles below deal with mature and/or controversial subject matter. Parents and students will want to preview their potential book choice prior to reading and discuss if the book is the "right fit" for the student. One quick way to preview the subject matter is to read reviews from online sites like Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or Goodreads.com.

- [All the Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr (880 Lexile, Historical Fiction) Marie-Louise is a sightless girl who lived with her father in Paris before the occupation. When German forces necessitate abandonment of the city, Marie-Louise's father, taking with him the museum's greatest treasure, removes himself and his daughter and eventually arrives at his uncle's house in the coastal city of Saint-Malo. Young German soldier Werner is sent to Saint-Malo to track Resistance activity there, and eventually, and inevitably, Marie-Louise's and Werner's paths cross. It is through their individual and intertwined tales that Doerr masterfully and knowledgeably re-creates the deprived civilian conditions of war-torn France and the strictly controlled lives of the military occupiers.
- [Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#) by Benjamin Alire Sáenz (380 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.
- [In the Time of the Butterflies](#) by Julia Alvarez (910 Lexile, Historical Fiction) It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's dictatorship. It doesn't have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas—"The Butterflies."
- [The Namesake](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri (1210 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.
- [Purple Hibiscus](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (920 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together.

(book selections continued on next page)



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- Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (960 Lexile, Science Fiction) Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.
- Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen (730 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) Though he may not speak of them, the memories still dwell inside Jacob Jankowski's ninety-something-year-old mind. Memories of himself as a young man, tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. Memories of a world filled with freaks and clowns, with wonder and pain and anger and passion. It was the early part of the Great Depression, and everyone in this third-rate circus was lucky to have any job at all. Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, was there because she fell in love with the wrong man. And Rosie the elephant was there because she was the great gray hope, the new act that was going to be the salvation of the circus. The bond that grew among this unlikely trio was one of love and trust, and ultimately, it was their only hope for survival.

*book summaries adapted from Amazon.com

Where might I find these books?

If possible, students should purchase their own copies of their chosen novel. It is an advantage to be able to take notes in the margins and underline or highlight notable passages. You may buy these books cheaply online and find copies at our local bookstores.

You may also check out your chosen works from the public library or check out digital copies of your books from the LISD OverDrive Digital Library (see information below). However, you would not be able to take notes in the text itself.

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. These books will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested may contact one of the teachers listed below before leaving school for the summer.

Introducing OverDrive Digital Library

Leander ISD Libraries expanded their services to include audiobooks and eBooks, which are available for students and teachers to download and enjoy for up to two weeks. Using this new service, LISD library card holders can check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting <http://digitallibrary.leanderisd.org>.

Users may browse the library's website, check out with a valid library card, and download to PC, Mac®, and many mobile devices. To use the service, students will need to install free software — OverDrive® Media Console™ will be required for audiobooks and Adobe® Digital Editions will be required for eBooks. Titles can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including iPod®, Sony® Reader™, and many others. Some audio titles can also be burned to CD to listen on-the-go. Titles will automatically expire at the end of the two-week lending period and there are no late fees or loss of materials.

This new service, powered by OverDrive, is free for students and teachers. Patrons can login by using their district username and password credentials.

To get started downloading audiobooks, eBooks, and more, visit <http://digitallibrary.leanderisd.org>. For additional OverDrive tips and FAQ's, visit <http://idl.leanderisd.libguides.com/OverdriveHelpTips>.



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STEP 2

While reading, students are **expected** to annotate their chosen novel to assist in their comprehension. If a student is unable to mark up and make notes in their chosen book, they may use sticky notes. If a student is reading a digital copy of their chosen novel, most digital devices have annotation tools for marking up texts.

How do I annotate?

- Underline or **highlight** the major points.
- Circle keywords or phrases that are confusing or unknown to you.
- Write *notes in the margins* restating the author's ideas.

What kinds of things should I annotate?

- words and phrases that wowed you or confused you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, key decisions, motivations, and flaws
- questions and inferences that pop into your head as you are reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows, or to your personal life
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

STEP 3

As you are reading and annotating, think about these questions. **Be prepared to discuss questions like these during the first week(s) of class.** If you are able to answer these types of questions, you will likely be well-prepared for any task(s) your teacher assigns.

- What confused you or surprised you in this text?
- As you read this text, describe how you felt. For example, were you bored, caught up, thinking about characters, thinking about how you might react if in the same situation, enjoying the author's writing style, or enjoying the humor or suspense?
- Which events in the text are most connected to the setting?
- Which character or characters did you think learned the hardest or most important lessons in this text? Why did you choose that character?
- Which character changed the most in the text? How did that character change? What did you learn about that character in watching that change? What did you learn about yourself?
- Which passage in the text would you consider most significant or most important? Why? Did that passage help shape what you considered to be the message of this text?
- The plot (the series of events in the text) and the theme (the lesson or message you take away from text) are not the same. Think of the text you just read. What is the plot? What is the theme? How does the plot relate to or affect the theme?
- Why did the author chose the narrator he or she did to tell this story?

STEP 4

Students can **expect** an assignment or multiple assignments over their summer reading during the first week(s) of class. Therefore, students must come to the first day of class having read their selected novel, completed their annotations, and prepared to discuss their novel.

Helpful Hint: Don't wait until the week before school begins to try and read your selected novel and complete the annotations. Unexpected events may pop up that could get in the way of you completing your reading on time. Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters you are going to read per week and stick to it.



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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the teachers below. Have a good summer!

Cedar Park High School:	Lauren Madrid – lauren.madrid@leanderisd.org
Glenn High School:	Mandy Moore – mandy.moore@leanderisd.org
Leander High School:	Anna McNay – anna.mcnay@leanderisd.org
Rouse High School:	Marguerite Swilling – marguerite.swilling@leanderisd.org
Vandegrift High School:	Mallory Matthews – mallory.matthews@leanderisd.org
Vista Ridge High School:	Susan Sitran – susan.sitran@leanderisd.org
Leander ISD contact:	Jennifer Abramson – jennifer.abramson@leanderisd.org

Are you stuck? Don't know what to do?

Visit the Summer Reading online forum for help, to ask questions, etc.... Teachers will be logging in regularly to help answer your questions.

Visit the online forum at <http://goo.gl/i3pji>.