

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition (12th Grade)
Summer Reading Assignments

Welcome to AP Lit! School begins on Tuesday, August 9. You are expected to have your assignments ready for submission by our first class meeting. I encourage you to begin the reading early so that you can fully digest the texts. The significant meaning and ideas are often missed when you read hurriedly rather than having time to contemplate the larger meaning of the work.

- Read the two assigned novels this summer.
- Read to recognize characterization, symbolism, conflict, complexity, and themes in the works.
- Complete assignments for each reading. (See assignments below.)
- Prepare for an assessment on each novel.

Novel & Assignment #1: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

In a series of interviews with Jerome Brooks, Chinua Achebe says the following about *Things Fall Apart*: “[It] is a kind of fundamental story of my condition that demanded to be heard....I believe in the complexity of the human story and that there’s no way you can tell that story in one way and say, this is it. Always there will be someone who can tell it differently depending on where they are standing....This is the way I think the world’s stories should be told—from many different perspectives.”

Thematic Ideas: Change versus tradition; Conflicts and results of cultural collisions

Literary Elements & Techniques: meaning and purpose in the work

Critical Approaches: Moral Criticism, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Post-Colonial Criticism, Feminist Criticism, and Ecocriticism

1. Read the novel.
2. In a brief essay (typed, 500-700 words), respond to the following prompt. Please note, there are multiple questions to be answered when responding to the prompt.
 - In the novel, *Things Fall Apart*, how are character conflicts and perspectives used to develop a theme of the work? In your essay be sure to compare the different interpretations of culture by including evidence of different points of view in the novel.
 - Your essay should be typed and printed. You will also upload a digital copy. Please follow formatting guidelines:
 - Follow basic MLA formatting
 - Times Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, double-space
 - Heading should include last name and page number

Novel & Assignment #2

Choose one additional novel from this list:

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Wuthering Height, Emily Bronte
Beloved, Toni Morrison

1. Read the novel.
2. Annotate as you read remembering to identify examples of characterization, symbolism, conflict, complexity, and themes in the work as you read.
3. You will have an assignment and essay the second week of class.