

Hello class of 2024,

Written below, you will find the directions for the summer work to prepare you for AP English Literature and Composition. This course, as the name suggests, focuses on literature of all kinds. There is not a set “curriculum;” instead, you are expected to investigate texts and understand what choices lead to its power/meaning. As such, the summer reading is meant to engage you in different experiences.

The theme is “Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Viewed.” You can see the particulars for each category below. Please note: two of these are required, and two are optional. The optional ones simply provide an idea of other ways you could expand/continue to practice skills we will use through the year. It’s also an opportunity to start the year with a good grade!

Keep in mind that some of these texts could involve particularly difficult or mature scenes or language. If you have any questions about the suggestions below, please ask me.

Have a great summer,

Ms. Stribling

#1. Something Old (Optional)

Reread a novel you've read before as a class assignment previous to the 11th grade (something you read in 10th grade or before). Then write a reflection on the prompt listed below.

A sampling of books that have been assigned to you that might be worth revisiting:

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Prompt:

Write a 1-2 page reflection where you detail anything you've observed in this second read through. As you've matured, your perception of literature has most likely shifted. How has your understanding of this novel changed from reading it again? Don't focus on whether you liked it or not - focus on your understanding of the work and its literary merit.

#2. Something New (Required)

Read one of the following novels and write a brief (2-3 page) essay on the prompt listed below.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (2014)

A blind girl and her family flees Paris when it's occupied by the Nazis. A German boy is enlisted to help find the resistance. Despite their differences, they carve a path of survival in the desolation of war.

American Gods by Neil Gaiman (2001)

The old gods never died, they just lost power when people stopped believing in them. Now they're out looking for new believers and a few sacrifices.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (2003)

This novel follows two boys, Amir and Hassan, as they grow up in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan (2008)

A family relocates from the city to a farm after World War II. Though there is a degree of isolation, the family soon discovers there are some things they can't run from.

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (2019)

The Nickel Academy prides itself on helping turn wayward boys into upstanding citizens. Just don't ask about the secret graveyard out back where they hide the bodies of the boys that didn't turn out so good.

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward (2017)

It's the prototypical road trip story, this time through the heart of Mississippi and the history of inequality.

A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan (2011)

This narrative spans the world and time as various characters live their lives, unaware of how their story connects, maybe even in a small way, to someone else's.

Prompt:

Consider your identity and the various ways you see the world: as a High School student, an athlete, an Asian American, a Christian, a girl, etc. How does your identity inform your understanding and interpretation of the book? In what ways does your identity challenge the book? In what ways does the book challenge your identity or world view?

#3. Something Borrowed (Optional)

Ask a friend, relative, stranger, teacher, etc. to suggest a text for you to experience. A “text” could mean almost anything that requires your active engagement, but it should be something that the recommender feels is foundational to them.

Here are some suggestions for inspiration.

See a play: Soldier’s Story at Mark Taper Forum. Some Shakespeare at Theatrical Botanicum, Independent Shakespeare Company.

Any book that you want to read. Any film that looks interesting. Any play.

Here are some ideas.

How to Lead a life of Crime by Kristin Miller

Catch 22 - Joseph Heller

As I Lay Dying - William Faulkner

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Age of Innocence - Edith Wharton

What Came Before He Shot Her - Elizabeth George.

Bless Me Ultima - by Rudolfo Anaya

This list is just a start. Feel free to take this in any direction.

After experiencing the text, write a 1-2 page reflection on what you learned about the recommender from this text and why this could be foundational to them. Or express what you took away from the text that you experienced.

