

WHO SHOULD TAKE AP ENGLISH 12?

READ CAREFULLY AND COMPLETE AN *HONEST* SELF-ASSESSMENT

In order to be successful in AP English 12, prospective students should meet the following criteria:

- a recommendation from the previous English teacher
- high achievement in past liberal arts courses
- verbal subscore on the PSAT/NMSQT of 50 or more
- solid writing skills with no major problems in style or grammar
- a work ethic founded on honesty, independence, and discipline
- an ability to synthesize knowledge from the past 12 years
- a desire to learn more than the obvious
- patience in accepting criticism and holistic scoring
- a rapid reading speed with good comprehension
- good time management skills; the ability to juggle concurrent assignments
- self-directed intellectual curiosity
- willingness to be a socially responsible, active participant
- high overall GPA
- emotional stability and a sense of humor

If you truly meet these criteria and choose to stay enrolled in the course, be sure to complete the summer reading assignments described in the Reading Program that follows!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

AP English 12 – Mrs. Brown

A. Summer Reading Selections

If you are planning to take Advanced Placement English 12, you must read at least six major literary works during the summer. Some of these works are classics, while others may be somewhat controversial in style or content. You will need to complete reflective/speculative journals which you will utilize to compose an essay on each selection that will be submitted on the first day of class. It is imperative that you read these books in the summer since no time will be scheduled for reading them once school starts. In other words, class assignments and testing will continue as if you have completed the summer readings. If you need me to provide copies of these works for you, please see me in room 401 before leaving for summer.

Thematic Connection -- The Individual and the Social System: Who Is in Control?

1. *Crime and Punishment*, Dostoyevsky
2. *The Taming of the Shrew*, Shakespeare
3. *Othello*, Shakespeare
4. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Stevenson
5. *1984*, Orwell
6. **Novel of Choice – (No written assignment)** Choose one work you would be willing to share with the class in an oral presentation. You may choose any author including, but not limited to, those on the required reading list for the course. You might even try a North Carolina novelist, but please don't "recycle" a previously read work.

B. Reflective/Speculative Journals and Essays for Summer Reading

1. As you read, stop to write. Take notes, copy brief passages from the text (with page numbers), writing what comes to mind – questions, reactions, problems, memories, and predictions. In other words, reflect on what you have read and speculate on the meaning and significance of details and events. The use of a highlighter or marginal notations may make this task less choppy and allow for longer intervals of reading.
2. When you stop reading for a particular time, look back over what you have written. You may discover that you have noted more details, made more associations, observed more about the thought of the selection, and done more real thinking than you ordinarily do when you read. If the material is new, maybe even difficult, you will see a gradual figuring-out of how to go about reading this material, and perhaps you'll be able to answer some of your own questions. Gradually, you will observe increasing commitment to and involvement with the selection as you are drawn into it through the active process of writing.

3. Yes, this process will slow you down. That is partly its purpose: to slow you down and make you think about what you are reading. Try to develop some ideas of your own rather than merely digesting the ideas in the text to be returned to the teacher on a test. You will find your journal notes useful during the writing process, class discussions, and test preparation.
4. Finally, once you have completed the reading process for each selection, use your journal entry to compose a 2-page response to the thematic question: who is in control – the individual or the social system? Each essay should be typed precisely according to MLA format. **PLEASE COMPLY WITH THESE EXPECTATIONS; MORE IS NOT BETTER!** These 5 essays (1 for each work of literature) will be submitted for evaluation on the first day of class. Give proper attention to organization, development, expression, and mechanics; after all, I am certain you wish to make a positive first impression.

C. Other Selections

Some of the other works to be studied during the term (in addition to the survey textbook and summer readings) include:

Beowulf

Grendel, Gardner

The Canterbury Tales, Chaucer

Macbeth and *Hamlet*, Shakespeare

Frankenstein, Shelley

A Tale of Two Cities, Dickens

Heart of Darkness, Conrad

The Stranger, Camus

Waiting for Godot, Beckett