

Williamsville East High School

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition - 2019-2020

Advanced Placement English is a rigorous, college-level course of study that students may choose in place of a 12th grade English when they are seniors. In May, the A.P. students take an exam created by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. The exam is graded on a one through five scale, and students who score three, four, or five on the exam may receive college credit. The score required and the numbers of credits granted vary from school to school. The course does not end with the A.P. exam, but continues to the end of the school year.

Although the A.P. English Literature course is like the regular English 10-12 courses to a certain extent, it differs from other English courses in a number of ways. It is intended for seniors who want to explore the subtle dynamics of literature rather than for those who are simply trying to gain a college credit. Not only is the amount of reading greater than that required in other courses, but also the books are generally more complex, and there is a greater emphasis on poetry. A.P. students must take more time to reflect on the reading before they come to class. Whereas honors level students usually focus on plot and character as vehicles for the expression of theme, A.P. students focus on language, image, and style, as well. They examine not what an author says so much as how he or she says it.

This expanded focus is dictated, in part, by the nature of the A.P. English Literature exam. On the first part of the A.P. exam, selected poetry and prose passages are followed by extremely difficult multiple-choice questions. Students are given an hour for this section of the exam. During the second part of the exam, students must write three essays in two hours. Thus, the course will include frequent timed writing practice with an emphasis on critical and analytical writing. Students will concentrate on developing their literary analyses with precision and coherence.

To sharpen their understanding of the craft of writing, students will also do significant creative work in the course. Experimenting with different genres and styles is crucial to understanding them. As Richard Feynman, the great physicist, says, "I can't understand what I can't create."

AP Lit Summer Reading List

Your ability to read voraciously as well as insightfully and deeply is critical in this course. To jump start you in that direction, we have assigned you a summer reading list that features novels and poetry that introduce and connect to the readings selected for the school year. Because you will complete writing assignments at the beginning of the year that are based on the summer reading assignments, **we expect and require you to annotate your summer reading books** and to bring them to class on the first day of school. Although we have already selected for you the cheapest editions available on the list below, you are free to purchase the books **used** through Amazon.com or other sites to lessen the financial obligation of the course. You may also choose to read these books digitally or you may borrow the books from a public library. No matter how obtain these texts, you are still held to the expectation that you can **show evidence of your annotations**. Please budget your summer reading time wisely, taking into account the length of time it will take to have books shipped to your home. Order your texts as soon as possible!

THE READING LIST- The Following Three Texts and Poetry Packet are Required

- ★ **The Odyssey** by Homer, Translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics, **ISBN-13: 9780140268867**
- ★ **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by Thomas C. Foster, Perennial, **ISBN-13: 978-0062301673**
- ★ **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, **ISBN-13: 978-0061120060**

- ★ Please download and read the **POETRY PACKET** found on WITS with this assignment posting.

IN ADDITION to the titles above, please choose **ONE** of the following required titles to read:

- ★ **The Remains of the Day** by Kazuo Ishiguro, Vintage Books, **ISBN 13: 978-0679731726**

OR

- ★ **Atonement** by Ian McEwan, Anchor Books, **ISBN-13: 978-0385721790**

It is important to take advantage of every literature experience, and Western New York offers many wonderful theatre opportunities! This summer we'd encourage you to attend a performance of either ***The Tempest***, running June 20th-July 14th or ***Love's Labours Lost***, running July 25th- August 18th in **Shakespeare in Delaware Park**. It's free and gives you the opportunity to brush up your Shakespeare while enjoying the lovely summer weather. There are also many other theatres running great shows and literary programs for the summer, so keep your eyes open for literary experiences.

To access current reviews on the books listed, go to the WCSD homepage at <http://www.williamsvillek12.org/>, select *Our Schools*, and then *East High School*. Select *Libraries & Research* from the left column. Click on the related link, Williamsville East High School Library WITS Page. You will need to use your student's username and password to access this site. The second listing on the right will take you to a variety of resources containing current book reviews.