

AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Part I – Choose a book from the list.

First, do a little investigating to figure out which book best fits your interests and needs. Concise synopses and reviews of each book can be found on www.amazon.com. Information about the maturity level of content can be found on www.ratedreads.com. Librarians, teachers, and friends are also great resources!

- *The Awakening* - Kate Chopin (1899)
- *Rebecca* – Daphne du Maurier (1938)
- *The Grapes of Wrath* - John Steinbeck (1939)
- *Things Fall Apart* - Chinua Achebe (1958)
- *Beloved* - Toni Morrison (1987)
- *Alias Grace* - Margaret Atwood (1997)
- *The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver (1998)
- *The Road* - Cormac McCarthy (2006)
- *Sing, Unburied, Sing* - Jesmyn Ward (2017)
- *Little Fires Everywhere* - Celeste Ng (2019)
- *Cloud Cuckoo Land* - Anthony Doerr (2021)

- *Lessons in Chemistry* – Bonnie Garmus (2022)

For brief biographies of the authors, visit <http://www.famousauthors.org>.

Part II – Read and take notes.

Read actively and closely, taking notes, outlining, or annotating. For reading strategies, please visit <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-literature-and-composition/reading-study-skills>

What to look for...	What does it mean?
Setting	Setting and the details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.
Characters	Characters in literature allow readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and cultural norms represented by those characters.
Structure	The arrangement of the parts and sections of a text, the relationship of the parts to each other, and the sequence in which the text reveals information are all structural choices made by a writer that contribute to the reader’s interpretation of a text
Figurative Language	Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text.
Narration	A narrator’s or speaker’s perspective controls the details and emphases that affect how readers experience and interpret a text.
Literary Argumentation	Readers establish and communicate their interpretations of literature through arguments supported by textual evidence.

Significance: How do these concepts suggest a central idea of the work?