

AP English Language
Summer 2015-16 Reading List
Mr. Marsh

AP Language Students and Parents:

The following is a list of literary works each student must read before the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Please purchase copies of the books and *highlight important information* as you read (important passages that illustrate the author's style, that support one or more of the motifs or themes of the work that contribute to a character's development, that cause difficulty in understanding, etc.). Also, make *marginal notes* which will allow you to remember what you have highlighted. Often, you are able to use the text when you write essays in which you are required to include textual references. Having the works read and highlighted prior to testing/discussion is of utmost importance; therefore, the **summer reading is not optional**. We will study the works in the order they are listed. **During the first days of class, there will be a major exam on the novels.**

1. *The Natural* – Bernard Malamud
2. *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
3. *The Unvanquished* – William Faulkner

Also, during the year you will read several other major works and many non-fiction selections. Since the AP English Language exam places a great deal of emphasis on research and the understanding of documentation, evaluation of valid sources, etc., you may wish to own a copy of the *MLA Handbook*.

I plan to have The Bookseller, the used book store on New Franklin Road (just past Wal-Mart), order copies of the novels for you. Please check with them early in the summer.

If you or your parents need to contact me during the summer, my email addresses are earlmarsh@gmail.com or earlmarsh@lagrangeacademy.org. I look forward to enjoying the learning process with you during the coming year.

AP English Language and Composition

Introduction

Mr. Marsh (e-mail: marshe@troup.org; web page: www.teacherweb.com/ga/lhs/earlmarsh)

Mr. St. John (e-mail: stjohnac@troup.org)

The AP classes are supposed to be **college-level courses**. Students are **already** supposed to be able to **read and understand fairly complex texts, think critically about them, and write analytically and persuasively**. Of course, we work very hard to develop these areas, but the students **MUST** be willing to read, think, and write seriously. I sincerely believe that the AP English Language course is the most important of all the AP courses and that all students can greatly profit from the skills they develop, no matter the scores they make on the AP exam.

The key to success in the AP English Language class is the willingness and the ability to do the work. A student does not need to have made all A's in previous English classes, but he or she does need to have developed **a strong work ethic and a commitment to giving his or her best effort**. Those who fail the class or make poor passing grades are those who do not turn in work, do not meet deadlines, are not in class when they should be, and/or simply do not dedicate themselves to excellence.

Here are some of the elements of the AP class that a student must expect:

1. *Class attendance* is crucial except for illness or other serious reasons. Every minute of the class is important; we try not to waste any time.
2. Students must meet announced *deadlines*. For example, if an assignment is due and the student is absent, the paper should still be sent. Too often students try to extend deadlines by being absent. This situation should never occur.
3. Students should expect to be involved in *outside-of-class work* (homework) all of the time. For the most part this work involves reading, researching, writing, etc. Students should always be involved in reading something for this class. This work will not be something that a student can take care of in the five minutes before class; it is work that requires actual involvement, work that has a long-term purpose and value.
4. Students should expect a focus on *synthesizing source material into effective papers* based on student-devised positions/thesis statements. One of the essays on the AP Exam will be of this type: the student will have *55 minutes to read six sources, synthesize the information, formulate a thesis, and write a documented paper*. Therefore, the AP students' knowledge of the basics of research from their Survey and American Literature classes is crucial.
5. *Plagiarism*, whether intentional or unintentional, cannot be tolerated. Often papers are returned with grades of F for this reason.
6. Students are expected to learn to write competent *essays in 30-40 minutes*. The SAT requires a 30-minute essay; the AP Exam requires three 40-minute essays. The AP Exam allows two hours and fifteen minutes to read several passages and to write three essays.
7. On the AP Exam, students are expected to read several passages and answer approximately *55 multiple choice questions* on those passages in one hour's time. Therefore, we practice at least once a week.
8. Being able to *manage time* efficiently and to make wise choices are two important characteristics to have or to develop.

By entering an AP class, a student indicates his/her seriousness about learning and willingness to devote the time, energy, and effort necessary to be successful. This student is "AP material" and will succeed. On the other hand, if the student is not serious and is not willing to work, then he/she probably will not succeed in the AP class.