

Oakland Catholic High School  
A.P. Literature and Composition  
Summer Reading 2020

Dear A.P. Literature students,

This summer, I hope that you will do lots of reading for pleasure, experimenting with different genres, from nonfiction to graphic novels, from memoir to poetry. Mostly, I want you to read every single day. To prepare for my class, you should do some thoughtful reading of and note-taking on AP-level texts, including two novels—one that I choose, and one that you choose.

First, some notes about notes:

I want you to keep a paper notebook for my class, that you will add to during class discussions. Please choose a notebook that will be your dedicated A.P. Lit notebook for the year. You can choose a simple composition-style notebook, or something fancier—but make sure that it is something not too heavy or bulky, but with plenty of space that you will enjoy using. When we come back to school in August, I will ask you to show me at least 3 pages of notes about each of your novels. This is a very open-ended assignment, so I hope you will feel empowered to create something that will represent your ideas and insights about your reading. Of course, your notes should be more sophisticated than just summaries of the novels. Think in terms of

- Quotes
- Questions
- Characters
- Big ideas

Second, please read the following books:

1. *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë. Any edition is fine. (Mine is the Penguin Classic, if you want to be on the same page. ISBN 978-0-14-144114-6.) Please read thoughtfully and take notes. When we return to school, we will discuss the big ideas. You will write an in-class essay on this novel to begin to get familiar with the kind of writing that is expected of you on the exam.

2. **At least one** of the novels from the attached AP list of free response titles. My only parameters are that you must choose:

- a novel (not a play, poem, or short story)
- something that has appeared at least twice on the list
- a title that has appeared at least once in the 21st century
- something that you have not read previously for another class

All of these books are fairly “substantial” in terms of length and complexity. Any of them will give you some strong background as you prepare for A.P. Literature. Please note that you should read a paper copy (not an e-book!), that you should annotate as you read, and that you should take notes. If you would like additional guidance in choosing a novel, I am available by email or Zoom to make recommendations. Don’t hesitate to reach out.

Have a great summer!

–Dr. Doerfler