



Advanced Placement Literature 2010 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 12th graders:

May 2010

Advanced Placement English has too many terrific books to read in a year, so the summer assignment will give you just a taste of some classics we will not read as an entire class. You will, however, have to write about each summer reading book in the first three weeks of school, and we will be discussing the novels in some detail because these novels set up the themes for the entire first semester. I expect that you have phenomenal close-reading skills and that you will take careful notes without being prompted. In addition to your own notes, however, please fill out as much as you can of the attached charts for each of the novels. Word to the wise—do the charts as you read; **it is much easier to jot the notes down on the charts as you read than to try to remember what you noticed just before school starts. You need to hand in these charts on the first day of school. These charts will be useful in our discussion as well as crucial for your review as you prepare for the AP exam next May.**

You need to read three novels for class this summer and choose any one from the list below or a book of your choice.

1. a novel of your choice. Please email me and let me know what you are reading by June 15 because I have not read everything, and I need to know what I have to read this summer.
2. *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
3. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus (short (!) novella) (Read the attached information to help you understand a little bit about existentialism BEFORE you begin the book.)
4. **PLEASE READ THIS LAST!** Read up to the end of Part III in *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (The study guide is meant to help you keep the names and places straight). We will be finishing this novel together, thus starting this in August and taking careful notes will really help you. ISBN: 0199536368 Oxford University Press (Jessie Coulson translation), published in 2008

REMINDER: We begin our class on Monday, August 23, not on the first day of school. We will meet after tennis, soccer, and volleyball practice that Monday morning, which is usually at 10:00, and yes, I will bring breakfast! I will email you when I know the timing for sure.

If you lose the Chart, go to <http://sites.crossroadscollegeprep.org/summerreading/>. There is no legitimate excuse for not having this work completed on the first day of school. Please understand: Advanced Placement Literature is a reading class. If you do not conscientiously complete this summer assignment, I may suggest that you switch to the other class because it demands less reading and writing.

All The Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy is the story of a young cowboy and his friend who head south to Mexico to make their way and grow up.

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving is the narrator's recollection thirty years later of growing up in New England with Owen Meany in the 50s and 60s.

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier--a story of the separation of two soulmates separated by the Civil War.
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison tells of an African American man's attempt to find identity and justice.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (19th cent.) a poor governess finds herself in a house of deep, dark secrets.

Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy (19th cent.) tells the story of a young man with dreams of becoming a scholar whose life does not go as he plans (a brilliant novel--very famous, very troubling, and very long)

Moby Dick by Herman Melville (19th cent.) is the epic story of one man's search for his nemesis, the great white whale. It is really cool if you have the time and determination.

Obasan by Joy Kogawa tells the story of Canadian internment and persecution of people of Japanese descent during World War II.

Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie is a story of a rock band on the Spokane reservation and details modern Native American struggles for identity and purpose.

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison tells of a character trying to understand his identity and heritage.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin tells of the growing awareness of a wife and mother that she is a person.

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood is the complex story of two sisters and their relationships and their writing.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri tells of a couple caught between the cultures of Calcutta and Boston.

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver tells of a missionary family that works in Africa.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy tells of a journey by a father and son after the Earth was almost destroyed.

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys is actually written a famous response to *Jane Eyre*, above (which you should read first). It is supposed to be a prequel, but it depends on your knowing the original novel.

The Women of Brewster Place by Gloria Naylor tells of the lives of several women who live in a run-down section of New York City

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (19th cent.) one of the most passionate stories of the power of possessive and demanding love, set in a landscape that is as wild and powerful as the hero and heroine.