

Advanced Placement English IV – Summer Reading Assignments Literature and Composition - Seniors

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Summer Reading Assignments – due the first Tuesday of school! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL TO COMPLETE THIS WORK! TRY TO COMPLETE TWO ASSIGNMENTS BY MID-JUNE, AND THE THIRD BY MID-JULY. ALL MUST BE DONE BY THE START OF SCHOOL!

Reading Journal.

1. Read John Gardner's *Grendel* (You can find this in the public library or at bookstores. If you are not able to purchase a book, stay in a bookstore such as Davis-Kiss, Barnes & Noble, or Books A Million and read it there. If you do not have time to read, purchase the book "on tape" and listen to it to and from all of your destinations this summer. It is preferred, however, that you READ the book! "I couldn't find it" or "I didn't have time" are not acceptable excuses for an AP level student!)
2. At least once per chapter, find a quotation which appeals to you. Write it at the top of the page, and use the rest of the page to discuss it and your reaction to it. Because there are twelve chapters, you will have a minimum of twelve pages in your reading journal!

AP Essay

This assignment must be typed and double-spaced. Re-read ANY of the books you have had to read for English class over the past three years. Then, select ONE of the topics below for an analytical essay. This essay must include an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. Your topic choices are:

- a. Choose a novel or play that depicts a conflict between a parent (or parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the SOURCES of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the MEANING of the work. Avoid plot summary.
- b. In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, is still a significant presence. Choose a novel or play of literary merit and write an essay in which you show how such a character functions in the work. You may wish to discuss how the character affects action, theme, or the development of the other characters. Avoid plot summary.

Book Review

This assignment must be typed and double-spaced. Select a book that is an old favorite for you. Re-read it. Then, using the professional book reviews on Amazon.com as examples, write a two to three-page review of the book. Explain the author's writing style, theme, or message, and plot (Avoid excessive plot summary; merely include enough to entice someone to read the book.) Then, explain what made the book excellent, good, average, poor, or bad. Use specific examples (yes, this means quotations!) from the novel to prove your points. You should also discuss such literary considerations as symbolism, characterization, diction (author's word choice), and how they affect the novel as a whole. You will be expected to present your review to the class, in the form of a commercial advocating the purchase of the book you chose.