

AP LITERATURE 2022-23

Hello, folks. Summer work is difficult for me to assign because there are so many books I'd like you to read! But it's also summer and the summer of 2022 is precious.

Book to purchase: *How to Teach Literature like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster. Some of you read this in AP Language; I invite you to give it a second look. This book covers most of the important tools for literary analysis. It's nice to read slowly a chapter at a time.

Link to this document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xiDHeS41awzUWP4Q-1BjOBxHxt_ZiOUYXb_oSL232Ss/edit

Part I: Reading

Summer reading is **OPTIONAL** and the writing assignments can be done when school starts, but I highly recommend reading this summer to keep your skills fresh and mind active and writing this summer to ease your load in the fall.

Here's a list of good contemporary novels for AP Literature (in alphabetical order) that we're not using in class this year.

If you need recommendations, reach out and tell me three books you love and one you don't love, and I'll make a couple of recommendations.

The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien
Atonement – Ian McEwan
All the Pretty Horses – Cormac McCarthy
The Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri
What is the What by David Eggers
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
The History of Love by Nicole Krauss
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao - Junot Diaz
White Noise by Don DeLillo
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides (Mature Content)
The Legend of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Less by Andrew Sean Greer

More of a nonfiction person? Try –

Becoming – Michelle Obama
The Best We Could Do – Thi Bui
Between the World and Me – Coates
Born a Crime – Trevor Noah (highly recommend audio version that Noah reads)
Educated – Ruth Westover
Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg – Carmon and Knizhnik
They Can't Kill Us Til They Kill Us – Abdurraqib
The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row– Hinton
21st Lessons for the 21st Century – Yuval Noah Harari

If you read a book over the summer, please tell me what you read and what you thought about it in your introduction letter. Which leads me to . . .

Part II: Write a Letter to Me

Read [this letter](#) from me to you, then write a letter to me that you deliver to me the first week of school. The directions are in my letter.

Part III: Summer/Fall Journal

Reading and writing are rooted in experience. Having a broad range of experiences is important to understanding the many ideas explored in the works we read. In addition, a large part of this class is about helping you find your writing voice. Finding your voice takes time.

In preparation, I would like for you to spend some time reflecting, experiencing new things, and writing. You should be prepared to submit your journal no later than the end of the first nine weeks of school but can turn it in anytime after school starts – here's your chance to get ahead. Be yourself when you write. Don't try to be too serious or academic. Be funny. Be sarcastic. Be vulnerable. Be real.

Requirements:

- 15 journal entries reflecting on your day or a portion of your day. Hopefully your journal will be much more (and a little less) than a diary. I am not interested in your daily routine or what you had for lunch. If, on the other hand, you wish to record your dreams last night or a rough draft of a poem or an interesting quote from a friend, please utilize your journal. Each entry should be about a handwritten page in length. If you want to type your journal entries, that's OK.

- A minimum **five** entries (but not limited to) of the entries should be based on the following activities. Please label these according to the activity number.

Activity list:

1. Attend a summer festival. Try [Stanwood Arts Jam and Festival](#), [Bumbershoot](#), [Stillaguamish Festival of the River](#) (Arlington), [Scottish Highland Games](#) (Mt. Vernon), or a [Renaissance Faire](#).
2. Go to a museum or a historic attraction. Try the [Chihuly Glass and Garden](#), [Seattle Art Museum](#), [Nordic Heritage Museum](#), the [Northwest Museum of Art](#) (nearby Laconner), or the [Northwest African American Museum](#), the [Wing Luke Museum](#), or the [Museum of Glass](#).

Many of these places offer free days so check ahead.

3. Spend a day without electronics (no cell phones, ipods, TVs, etc). **I would love for everyone to try this.**
4. Explore Seattle. Eat at the Pike Place Market. Walk the waterfront. Take the monorail to Seattle Center. Explore the Japanese Garden or Discovery Park. Visit the University of Washington Campus and check out the gargoyles. Get bubble tea in the International District.
5. Go for a hike. Cama Beach and Camano Island State Park are really close, but there are lots of great places just a little farther out (like the North Cascades). Try the [Washington Trails Association](#) for ideas.
6. Talk with a grandparent or older adult about life in their younger years. Count this as two entries if you record it on [StoryCorps](#).
7. Go tent camping.
8. Attend the theatre (not the movie theater) to see a live production. Try the [Wooden O](#) (outdoor Shakespeare, [Northwest Shakespeare](#) (nearby) or the [Lincoln Theater](#) in Mount Vernon sometimes shows films of National Theater productions as well as hosting live performances.
9. Eat a meal from a foreign culture that is new to you.
10. Work at a shelter, food, or other organization preparing or delivering food.
11. Prepare a meal for your family and then enjoy it with them.

12. Spend an afternoon exploring our region's many parks. We have National Parks: North Cascades is about a 90-minute drive east. To the west across Puget Sound, there is the Olympic National Park. In Seattle's Pioneer Square, you can visit the Klondike Gold Rush National Park, which is entirely indoors. For Washington State Parks, visit [here](#). It's fun to visit this site: there are parks all over Washington!
13. Buy some fruit at a **local farmer's market or fruit stand**, then bake a pie, cake, or cobbler. Or make and fill jars with jam. Yum.
14. Attend a service or interview a person of a different religion.
15. Repair or build something or do some kind of maintenance (changing oil, rotating tires).
16. Plan a trip – map out the route, find places to stay, and points of interest to visit.
17. Spend an evening playing board games or cards with your family or friends.
18. Visit a cemetery and read the headstones. Consider the history of family, community, state, and nation embodied in these headstones. Reflect on your experiences. Creepy but fun.
19. Visit a quiet spot on a beach, by a stream, or by a lake. Spend an hour in thought and record your thoughts in a journal or notebook.
20. Do something you don't normally do; the point is to try new things in order to experience the world through a different lens.

Will I read your journal?

I will only read with your permission. I will, of course, want to read a page or so about each of your summer activities and readings, but you are free to photocopy or transcribe these or designate sections of your journals as personal.

Writing more in your journal will benefit YOU. There will be a reward later for being diligent in your journaling efforts; the reward – being more in tune with your writing style and voice. Consistent writing improves your writing skills. Happy journaling!

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at eblackwood@stanwood.wednet.edu and I'll be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer, and I'll see you on the first day of your SENIOR year!

Cheering you on,

Ms. Blackwood



