

AP English Literature Summer Reading Information (2019-2020)

Assignments during the summer have a variety of purposes. They serve as not only an introduction to the AP English Literature course and its rigor but also as a preview of how writing will be treated by your teacher and, eventually, the AP exam graders. The summer assignments also serve as an initial indicator of your writing skill and will be used to measure your progress from the beginning to end of the year.

Because the AP Literature exam and its style are new to you, the essays will be scored on the AP 9 point scale, but this score will not be factored into your trimester grade. However, appropriate and timely completion of these assignments is required for enrollment in the course, and you will receive points toward your trimester grade for completion of the assignments.

Assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com (Class ID: [Email khinkley@hs-stm.org for code] Password: sabers). All writing assignments are electronically submitted to Turnitin.com.

Students must enroll in the course's Google Classroom account (Class Code: [Email khinkley@hs-stm.org for code]). This account will have information on it throughout the summer. Students need to use it!

Regardless of which trimester you begin AP English Literature, all summer assignments are due by these due dates. Failure to complete these assignments appropriately and on time will affect your enrollment in AP English Literature.

Important Dates (Any and all assignments may be completed early)

- June 1 Join the AP class on Turnitin.com and Google Classroom (see me if you have difficulty)
Submit Theme Prompt Choice using the Google Form posted on Google Classroom.

- July 1 Submit Assignment 1: *To Kill a Mockingbird* essay on Turnitin.com

- July 15 Submit your Theme Book Text Choice using the Google Form posted on Google Classroom.

- August 1 Submit Assignment 2: Theme Book Essay on Turnitin.com

Remember – Enrollment in the course is dependent upon completion of these assignments on time. Failure to complete on time will result in a change in enrollment for your English course. If you have technical issues, email khinkley@hs-stm.org.

Assignment Details

June 1, 2019

First, register for the Turnitin and Google Classroom accounts for the class. Codes are on the previous page. Then, review the Theme project options on the following pages and choose one of the theme options. We will be completing a year-long project with this theme, so choose wisely. The theme you choose now will be your theme for the year. [Go to Google Classroom, find the Google Form called AP English Literature THEME CHOICE, and submit your choice.](#)

[This is a description of the theme choices.](#)

July 1, 2019

Assignment 1 - *To Kill a Mockingbird* Theme Essay
Due July 1, 2019 on Turnitin.com Assignments Page

Read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. After reading, respond to YOUR THEME prompt in a well-developed, formal essay. Remember to use specific textual evidence (and cite that evidence using MLA format). NOTE - You are analyzing *TKAM* considering the theme you chose on June 1.

Theme Prompts for *TKAM*:

- SURROUNDINGS: "And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency." Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

How do cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? How do surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole?

- PAST EVENTS: In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. How must characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal? How does the character's relationship to the past contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole?
- POWER: One of the strongest human desires is the desire for power. How do characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* struggle to free himself or herself from the power of others or seek to gain power over others? How does the struggle for power reveal the meaning of the work as a whole?
- IDEALISM: In his 2004 novel *Magic Seeds*, V. S. Naipaul writes: "It is wrong to have an ideal view of the world. That's where the mischief starts. That's where everything starts unravelling."

Select a character from *To Kill a Mockingbird* who holds an "ideal view of the world." How does this character's idealism have positive or negative consequences? How the author's portrayal of this idealism illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole?

July 15, 2019

Choose a book of literary merit related to your theme. [Read about book selection in this document.](#)

[Go to Google Classroom, find the Google Form called AP English Literature THEME BOOK Choice, and submit your choice.](#) Then, read the book.

August 1, 2019

Assignment 2 - Student Choice Theme Essay
Due August 1, 2019 on Turnitin.com Assignments Page

After reading your chosen text of literary merit, respond to your theme's prompt (with your chosen text as the "text") in a well-developed, formal essay. Submit your essay to Turnitin.com under the Assignment 2: Book Choice Theme Essay. NOTE - You are analyzing your chosen book considering the theme you chose on June 1.

****Please use MLA format when submitting your assignments. This includes the correct header, spacing, font, and a Works Cited (for essays).****