

AP English Summer Reading Assignment

Step One: I want you to read a book of your choosing from my list below. I can come up with recommendations for you if you need help, but I do want each student to email me their choice so that I can ensure it is appropriate for your age level (i.e. - no Magic Tree House - sorry guys).

DO NOT FORGET TO EMAIL ME YOUR CHOICE. This step will be a part of your summer reading grade.

Step Two: Keep a reading journal while you read. You can decorate these however you wish. The minimum requirement is that you write 6 REACTION journals (see below for more details) as you read, however, think of the reading journal as your own space to reflect on what you've read. If there are quotes or scenes that are important or moving to you, draw them, decorate them on a page, and reflect on what it means to you, the author, the characters, etc. I want at least three pages like this as well as the 6 reaction journals. *Reaction Journal: A reaction journal is NOT a summary of what you've read, but instead you should be recording how you feel, what the book makes you think about, how it relates to the world / you. These are your REFLECTIONS. You should do these as you read rather than waiting until the very end of the book. Let me know if you have questions.

Alongside these reaction journals – I also want you to do ONE journal analyzing each of the following elements:

- Setting – Considerations: Where is the story set? Why is the setting important to what happens in the story? What is going on historically, socially, culturally that is important to understanding the story?
- Character Development – How do the characters develop and change over the course of the novel? How does their growth/change create meaning for you as a reader?
- Themes – What are some of the big themes/ideas in the book? What messages should you take away? How might others relate to this book?

So, in total, you will have **NINE** journals and at least **THREE** decorated pieces.

Step Three: Answer the following questions after you read your book.

1. Explain your main character's problem and then offer them a solution on how you'd solve that problem.
2. Pick one character and explain why you would or would not like them as a friend. What about them / their character development / characteristics make you feel this way?
3. What real life events or people are you reminded of by characters/situations in the story?
4. How might the story be different if it were told through another character's eyes? If it's third person, how would it be different told in first person?
5. Why do you think the author wrote the story? What purposes/messages do you gather?
6. What unanswered questions do you have about the story?

Step Four: Write a 1-2-page book review about your book. A book review is not simply a summary of your book, although a brief summary at the beginning is fine to give the reader context. After, a book review offers your own commentary on the book, critically assessing it as a reader. Most reviews discuss and analyze the purpose of the book and whether that purpose was successfully executed and brought across to readers. This involves your reactions to the book, examples that build your analysis of the book and how you believe it was or was not a worthy read / how it handles issues of importance. If you have more questions on book reviews, please contact me or look up "how to's" online.

OR // Create a poster for your book. Consider what typical posters would include – play name, author, images, symbols, tone, etc. Be sure to make it thematic and relevant to the book. After, write a short reflection piece (1 page or less) describing the choices you made and how they tie into the overall themes/ideas in the play.

Step Five: ENJOY SUMMER BREAK. Live. Do fun things. Make memories. :)

CHECKLIST:

- Emailed Choice of Novel
- 6 Reaction Journals
- 3 Analysis Journals
- 3 Decorated Pages
- Answered Questions
- Book Review or Poster
- Making memories / fun summer

ACCEPTABLE SUMMER READS:

- Jane Eyre
- All the Light we Cannot See
- Their Eyes were Watching God
- King Lear
- The Road
- The Kite Runner
- Little Women
- Emma
- Beloved
- The Tempest
- Wuthering Heights
- Your Choice – MUST BE APPROVED & MUST BE AP LEVEL