2020-2021 AP Literature Summer Reading

**Part I:** Before the beginning of AP Lit, you should read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

At the beginning of the semester, you will be expected to write a literary analysis essay on this work. You will receive specific instructions for the essay in class during the first week of class, but you will probably want to take notes as you read. Focus on the key ideas Hosseini develops in the novel, regarding subjects like loyalty, friendship, guilt and atonement, and love. You may also want to mark key quotes in the book so that you can easily find them if you choose to quote them in your essay. (You will be expected to incorporate quotes and paraphrases of key incidents from the novel into your essay.)

**Part II:** Read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver.

· Consider Kingsolver’s characterization, particularly the significance and effect(s) of alternating among narrators.

· You will be writing an essay on the novel during the first week or two of school. We will also be discussing this book throughout the semester and using it as a common reference when addressing various literary terms and techniques, and we will be comparing it with other texts during the semester. As with the other assigned summer reading novel, you will want to mark key passages in this one to make them easily accessible for the essay and during discussions.

**Part III (optional):** Read one or more classic (or modern classic) novels or plays by well-respected authors.

· You may choose any work of fiction that appeals to you as long as it has “significant literary merit” and complexity. If you are unsure about a work, feel free to email me, and I’ll give you feedback. My personal email address is: jetheriot@yahoo.com. This is the one I check most often during the summer.

· Below are some authors to consider:

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Herman Melville

F. Scott Fitzgerald

William Faulkner

Ernest Hemingway

Virginia Woolf

Leo Tolstoy

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

George Bernard Shaw

Jane Austen

Charles Dickens

William Shakespeare (not *Othello)*

Toni Morrison

Lorraine Hansberry

George Orwell

Amy Tan

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Ralph Ellison

Ann Patchett

Tennessee Williams

Arthur Miller

John Irving

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

\*\*Because AP Lit will only be offered first semester this year, your success will depend, in part, on the time and attention you give to the course after it officially ends. Below are a few simple steps that you can (and will be expected to) take in order to dramatically increase your chances of passing the AP exam.

· Read the summer reading novels closely and analyze them as you go along. (Do not just settle for basic comprehension. Always consider author’s purpose. What is the theme, and how does the author use literary devices and techniques to convey it?)

· Take my Intervention for the spring semester if at all possible. We will be using this time to do a significant amount of review and testing practice that we simply will not have time for in the three months or so of class.

**Literary Terms Glossary**

Define the following terms and identify as many examples as possible in your reading and observation of written works around you.

Allegory

Alliteration

Allusion

Ambiguity

Analogy

Antithesis

Caricature

Colloquial

Connotation

Denotation

Diction

Homily

Hyperbole

Imagery

Infer/inference

Irony (incl. dramatic,

situational, and verbal)

Metaphor

Metonymy

Mood

Narrative

Onomatopoeia

Oxymoron

Paradox

Parody

Pedantic

Personification

Point of view

Prose

Satire

Symbol/symbolism

Synecdoche

Syntax

Theme

Tone

Understatement

Some types of novel:

Bildungsroman

Epistolary

Novel of manners

Pastoral

Proletarian

Roman à clef

Poetic Terms:

Blank verse

Caesura

Couplet

Dramatic

monologue

Elegy

Enjambment

Epic poem

Free verse

Iambic

Lyric poem

Narrative poem

Ode

Pentameter

Quatrain

Sonnet

Tetrameter

Trochaic