

# AP LITERATURE 1409

## SUMMER READING LIST 2017

Northern High School, Calvert County, MD

### Requirement One: Select One Book

May 2017

Your book may be purchased, downloaded on an ereader, or checked out from the public library. Plan to have access to your book during the first quarter.

ENG 1409  
AP Lit & Comp

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#### Read ONE:

*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

*Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

*Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

*Native Son* by Richard Wright

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy follows 16-year-old John Grady Cole from his grandfather's ranch across the border into Mexico. There, Cole lives a cowboy life, breaks horses, falls in love with the daughter of his employer, and gets sucked into a violent encounter with the Mexican prison system. \*

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin First published in 1899, this sensuous novella so disturbed critics that it was banished for decades. Now hailed as an early vision of woman's emancipation, it tells of a woman's abandonment of her family, her seduction, and awakening to passionate desires that threaten to consume her.

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison Set in post-Civil War Ohio, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is a haunting chronicle of slavery and its aftermath. It traces the life of a young woman, Sethe, who has kept a terrible memory at bay only by shutting down part of her mind. *Beloved* is a dense, complex novel that yields up its secrets one by one.

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker A Pulitzer-Prize-winning feminist novel, praised for the depth of its female characters, is a realistic account of an abused, uneducated black woman's struggle for empowerment. \*

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton A compassionate story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo, his son Absalom, and the troubled, changing South Africa of the 1940s. A sad tale, full of hard truths but also of hope and forgiveness.

*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko A famous text illuminating the role of myth and ritual in challenges faced by the half-white, half-Laguna protagonist, Tayo, as he wrestles with the demons of war, alcoholism, and the white oppression of Native American culture.

- ◆ Select one book.
- ◆ Lose yourself in...
- ◆ your reading!
- ◆ Compose and type 3 journal responses.
- ◆ Compose and type 5 questions.
- ◆ Work must possess depth and maturity.
- ◆ **Type all work.**
- ◆ **Do your own work.**



#### Requirements

- Read one book.
- Type three journal responses.
- Prepare for your summer reading essay the day after Labor Day.
- **Turn in all work the first day of class—Sept. 5th**
- **Follow all instructions.**

***Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies** Ramsay is a man who has returned from World War I decorated with the Victoria Cross destined to be caught in a no man's land where memory, history, and myth collide. His apparently innocent involvement in such innocuous events as the throwing of a snowball or the teaching of card tricks to a small boy prove neither innocent nor innocuous. \*

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte** A classic Gothic romance with windswept castles, mysteries, dark secrets, and passions— the story of Jane, a poor, innocent orphan who becomes a governess and then loses her heart to hard, bitter, cynical Mr. Rochester.

***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan** Chronicles the lives of four women raised in China and their four America-born daughters; Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters— moving and bittersweet.

***Native Son* by Richard Wright** The story of Bigger Thomas, a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, the novel shows the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston** Long-legged, independent and articulate, Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person -- no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.

***Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe** The tragic hero is a prosperous, self-made Nigerian tribesman, a champion wrestler, and a husband to three wives. When missionaries begin to unravel tribal traditions, though, he is destroyed by his fear and blind ambition.

\*contains strong language and/or mature themes

### **Requirement Two: Questions and journals are due the first day of class.**

#### **WRITE 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH BOOK.**

1. Questions could be about parts of the novel you don't understand, its historical context, or author's style or tone. Grades for the discussion questions will be based on the depth of your understanding of the book as reflected by the questions. Typically, excellent questions do not take yes/no answers.
2. In the past, some students have submitted cut and pasted material from online sources which has resulted in zeros, conferences, and general embarrassment. It is prudent to rely on one's own intellect for the entirety of the summer work. The best experiences relating to literature result from one's own ponderings.

**WRITE THREE JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR YOUR BOOK.** These journal entries will prepare you for further analysis and an in-class essay at the beginning of the quarter.

1. Journal entries must be **typed**, double spaced with a 12-point font, and stapled. Be sure each entry is marked clearly with your name, the date, and the title of the work underlined.
2. Each entry should incorporate at least two quotes from the text, be two pages, avoid summary, and employ paragraphs.
3. Grades for the journal will be based on the depth and insight of your ideas in response to the text. I have read all of the novels, some of them more than once, so it is essential that you avoid summary and spend your intellectual energy pondering, musing, and analyzing. The **quality of your ideas** and the **effectiveness of your writing** create your voice as a writer.

### **Get a leg up!**

**At the start of the first quarter, *1984* by George Orwell will be assigned. You may prepare for the study of this text if you wish by reading *1984* ahead of time, but it is not required summer reading.**



Feel free to use the following questions, or similar ones of your own, to guide your journal responses:

- Which character is your favorite? Why? Which character(s) do you dislike? Why?
- If you could be any character in this work, who would you be? Explain.
- What quality(ies) of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?
- What memory does the text call to mind—of people, places, events, sights, smells, or even of something more ambiguous, perhaps feelings or attitudes?
- Are there any parts of this work that are confusing to you? Which parts? Why do you think you got confused?
- What patterns did you see emerging? Did you see images that started to overlap? Gestures or phrases that recurred? Details that seemed associated with each other?
- Would you change the ending of this story in any way? Tell your ending. Why would you change it? How would your change alter the meaning of the work—or would it?
- Discuss any of the elements of fiction in this work: theme, symbolism, conflict, irony, style, point of view, tone, etc.
- What questions would you have for the author after reading this work?
- How do you respond to the text—emotionally or intellectually? Do you feel involved with the text or distant from it?
- Does this text call to mind any other literary work (poem, film, story, play)? If it does, what is the work and what is the connection you see between the two?
- Would you recommend this work to a friend? Why or why not?
- If you were asked to write about your reading of this text, upon what would you focus? Would you write about some association or memory, some aspect of the text itself, about the author, or about some other matter?

Before entering AP Literature, it is suggested that students should be familiar with some of these works, even if they were not read in previous classes.

*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder    *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne    *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens    *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald    *The Crucible* or *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving    *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote    *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

*The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver    *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath    *The Dante Club* by Matthew Pearl

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey    *The Old Man and The Sea* or *Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte    *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry    *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams    *Antigone* by Sophocles

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne    *The Picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde

- The AP Lit and Comp Examination is scheduled for the morning of May 9th. Students should check with the colleges they wish to attend for policy on AP credit.
- To get more information about AP, go to [www.apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.com)
- If you took AP Language, please save your Little Black Book.

