

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition
Northview High School
Summer Reading Assignment 2023-2024

Overview:

The summer reading assignment provides an opportunity for students to showcase talent, work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and dedication. The selected texts present the students with the rigor in reading both introductory to and preparatory for upcoming course content. After reading the required texts, students will complete work related to the concepts, method, and function of the course itself. Students should approach the assignment as a foundational showcase of the quality of insight, depth of knowledge, and devotion to quality they plan to maintain throughout the course. Students will read the novels listed below, then complete the three accompanying assignments.

Texts:

- The Namesake*, by Jhumpa Lahiri
(ISBN: 978-0-618-48522-2 or any by First Mariner Books)
- Slaughterhouse Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut
(ISBN: 978-0440180296 or any by Mass Market Paperback)
- Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison
(ISBN: 978-0679732761 or any by Vintage Books)

Four Assignments:

1) Personal Understanding Reading Log (15, total, paragraphs)

As you read through the novels, highlight, underline, or otherwise mark sentences (they do not have to be dialogue; they may be descriptive or narrative) that either:

- a) Are significant to you for some personal reason that is not necessarily related to other novel content.
- b) Are significant for revealing a (profound or specific) truth about human nature, love, conflict, etc.
- c) Are significant in conveying the author's main message in the novel.

After reading and noting as you go, when you finish reading the book, look back through your notations and choose only five marked sentences. For each of these five, write one paragraph that fully explains both your understanding and perspective of the sentence. Include both the function of this sentence in the author's intended overall meaning for the novel as well as anecdotal evidence from your experience. Do this for each of the three novels.

2) Research and Application Essay (3, total, mini essays)

Choose ONE of the concepts listed below that you believe has some correlation to EACH novel (three total). After you thoroughly research the topic below, write a 500-word explanation in your own words in which you apply ONE theory/concept to the content of ONE novel. Do this for each of the three novels.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kavka's Toxin Puzzle | Group Theory | Planck's Constant |
| Mathematical Commutative Laws | Kurokawa Symbiosis | Newcomb's Paradox |
| Infinite Divisibility | Broca's Aphasia | Heidegger's <i>Dasein</i> |

3) Author intention Essays

After you read through the novels, search through the prompts at <https://mseffie.com/AP/AP%20Lit%20Open%20Prompts.pdf> and choose one prompt that fits with each novel. After choosing three prompts (one for each novel), write a well-developed and organized 500-word essay in which you thoroughly cover the prompt. Your essays should have a focus on author intention and the overall meaning of the work as a whole. Use a prompt a singular time; each novel should have a unique prompt. Be warned that not every prompt applies to all these novels, so use proper discernment to decide whether or not a prompt is appropriate for a specific novel. Be sure to copy/paste the prompt you choose at the top of the paper.

4) Synthesis Essay (1, total, synthesis essay)

After carefully reading *Slaughterhouse Five*, view and take notes on ONE of these: *Moon Knight* (the series), *Sisyphus: the Myth* (the series), *Big Fish*, *Taare Zameen Par*, or *Memento*. While viewing the film or series, continually consider connections and contrasts to Vonnegut's novel. After organizing ideas and selecting conceptual similarities and differences, write a well-organized, 500-word essay in which you clearly pose a theory about the correlative concept of *displacement*, using both texts (yes, film is text) to support your perspective (without the use of first person).

Due Date: August 25, 2023.

Note: ALL students must bring a STAPLES™ brand, college ruled, composition book to class the first day and each day after. (Purchase two to use throughout the year, depending on handwriting size.)