

AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING 2024-25

This summer, we ask that you read **several literary works – 3 or more – of your CHOICE**, and arrive prepared to write about and discuss them the first week of school.

Annotate as you read, underlining / noting important or powerful moments. You may also find it helpful to keep a composition book of notes as you go (*written by hand*) to capture your impressions, so that details are easier to recall in August.

Do not use the internet to cut corners. If you are tempted to do so, rethink your plan to take this course. You must be a *willing, enthusiastic, patient* reader to be successful in AP Lit. That means *not* relying on the internet to do your reading and thinking for you.

PARAMETERS:

- You are strongly encouraged to select any titles by prize winning authors. Look for those with Pulitzer, Nobel, Booker Prize, National Book Critics Circle, or National Book Award in their author bios.
- **Do not** select titles meant for a juvenile audience.
- **Do not** select titles you have read before, whether for school or independently.
- **Do not read the following titles:**
 - *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
 - *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
 - *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
 - *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
 - *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman
 - Any play by William Shakespeare

If you are struggling to choose, consult the **list of recommended titles**, below; all are good additions to an AP Lit student's list of works studied. These titles are manageable independent reads, all of which have appeared on the AP Lit test. *Please note: All works listed here are highly regarded texts, but some contain adult content. Select a work that is appropriate for you and your family.* You may also want to consult College Board's list of recommended AP Literature titles if you need more suggestions.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Breath, Eyes, Memory by Edwidge Danticat

Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

There There by Tommy Orange