

AP ENGLISH IV – SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2024

General instructions: To accommodate students who are reliant on their surfaces to complete their work and to use Teams as a means of submitting work, due dates for summer work are at the end of the summer break. Look for an e-mail for a new Team for AP English around August 1st. Once that has been set up, there will be assignments in Teams for the submission of your summer work.

Some reminders for submitting your work:

- Always submit Word documents on Teams. It's much easier for grading than OneNote or GoogleDocs.
- Always follow MLA guidelines for formatting your work including an appropriate heading, correct spacing, etc.
- Always use literary present tense in writing about literature.
- Never use first- or second-person personal pronouns such as I, we, you, and their variations in formal academic writing.
- Essays should follow the five-paragraph essay structure unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment #1: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Choose THREE of the following thematic topics and write a theme statement encapsulating what Kesey has to say about this topic in the novel. Then explain why you think this is what Kesey is saying using specific examples from the novel: madness; freedom and confinement; manipulation; power; laws and order; rebellion and conformity. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
 2. Explain the author's use of TWO of the following symbols in the novel: the fog; rabbits and the wolf; the combine; electroshock therapy. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
 3. Discuss the author's use of ONE of the following motifs in the novel: invisibility; the power of laughter.
 4. Evaluate the reliability of Chief Bromden as the narrator of the novel.
 5. Kesey uses a significant amount of religious imagery throughout the novel, especially the last sections. What is the purpose of this imagery?
 6. The title and the novel's opening epigraph come from a children's folk rhyme. Look up the rhyme and explain why you think the author references this in the title and epigraph.
 7. Explain whether this novel is more about the treatment of mental patients in hospitals in the 1950's or society and its treatment of non-conformists in the 1950's. Be sure to explain why you have chosen the stance you have.
- Write an essay responding to one of the following prompts:
 - A. How does the use of Chief Bromden as the narrator of this novel either highlight or detract from the reliability of the information the reader gets about the events of this novel?
 - B. In the final sections of the novel, the comparison between McMurphy and Christ becomes quite obvious. Explain why Kesey makes this comparison. What is the message of this comparison?
- Submit your work no later than August 14.

Assignment #2: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Explain the author's use of THREE of the following symbols in the novel: the sun, heat, and weather; the old, odd, robotic woman in part 1 chp. 5 and part 2 chp. 3; the crucifix; the young reporter in the courtroom; the courtroom; laughing and swimming. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
 2. What is the effect of Mersault's detached first-person narration of the story? Remember, he's committed a crime and will be guillotined if convicted.

3. Explain the meaning of the title thinking about the following bit of information. This novel was originally written in French with the title *L'Étranger* which can be translated as either *The Stranger* or *The Foreigner*. Does the translation matter? If so, why?
 4. Choose THREE of the following thematic topics and write a theme statement encapsulating what Camus has to say about this topic in the novel. Then explain why you think this is what Camus is saying using specific examples from the novel: philosophical viewpoint – the absurd; mortality; religion; isolation; sadness; man and the natural world; women and femininity; society and class; passivity; friendship. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
- Write an essay responding to the following prompt:

One of the Fenwick talons is “Faith” and this novel deals with how people behave when they have little or no spiritual or religious faith or belief in a higher power or life after death. Camus considered himself an absurdist while many critics label him an existentialist. In both cases, these writers believe that there is no great purpose in life beyond the here and now. Write an essay that examines Mersault’s motivation, or lack of motivation, and how it affects the people around him, and how Mersault’s actions, thoughts, and beliefs demonstrate what a world lacking faith-filled people would be like.
 - Submit your work no later than August 14.

Assignment #3: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novels

- Read one of the following Pulitzer Prize Winning Novels listed below:
 - *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton (1921)
 - *Arrowsmith* by Sinclair Lewis (1926)
 - *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder (1928)
 - *A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey (1945)
 - *A Death in the Family* by James Agee (1958)
 - *Advise and Consent* by Allen Drury (1960)
 - *The Reivers* by Williams Faulkner (1963)
 - *The Keepers of the House* by Shirley Ann Grau (1965)
 - *The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud (1967)
 - *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner (1972)
 - *The Executioner’s Song* by Norman Mailer (1980)
 - *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (1983)
 - *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (1988)
 - *Breathing Lessons* by Anne Tyler (1989)
 - *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley (1992)
 - *The Shipping News* by E. Annie Proulx (1994)
 - *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham (1999)
 - *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri (2000)
 - *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* by Michael Chabon (2001)
 - *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo (2002)
 - *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones (2004)
 - *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson (2005)
 - *March* by Geraldine Brooks (2006)
 - *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy (2007)
 - *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz (2008)
 - *Oliver Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout (2009)
 - *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt (2014)
 - *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead (2017)
 - *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead (2020)
 - *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich (2021)

- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver (2023)
- Let me know which novel you've chosen as soon as you do. I'd like you each to do a different novel.
- Then answer the following questions about the novel you've chosen and read.
 1. Create TWO theme statements for the book based on your reading and then support your theme statements. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
 2. Explain the significance of the title of the book you have chosen.
 3. Explain one symbol from the book you have chosen.
 4. Find an example of TWO of the following types of irony in your book and analyze the effect and purpose of your examples: situational, dramatic; verbal, cosmic, structural. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
 5. Describe the narrative point of view and explain how it enhances or detracts from the novel's meaning.
 6. Identify and explain an archetype present in the book.
 7. Identify the genre and/or writing era (modernism, post-modernism, magic realism, historical fiction, family saga, science fiction, etc.) of the book. Then explain how this choice helps develop the book's meaning.
- Finally, create a Book Talk video in which you discuss the merits of the novel you've read without containing spoilers. Your talk should seek to encourage or discourage others from reading the novel based on your review of the novel. Your talk should do the following:
 - Give an overview of the plot without including any spoilers.
 - Define the novel's genre.
 - Describe the author's writing style.
 - Introduce the main characters.
 - Reference the big ideas in the novel.
 - Be posted on YouTube with a link submitted to the assignment on Teams.
 - Be no longer than 10 minutes.
- Submit your work no later than August 14.