

## **Summer Reading for ENTERING 11<sup>TH</sup> AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION** **(AP LIT ONLY)**

**Assignment:** Students will read **two** texts and complete assignments:

- ***Beowulf* as translated by Seamus Heaney and complete an essay (instructions below)**
- **A book chosen from the list below and complete a PowerPoint (instructions below)**
  - The chosen book should be one you have **never read before** in order to best prepare you for the AP Lit test in the spring.

### **AP Summer Reading/ Essay Assignment**

**Required:** *Beowulf*, translated by Seamus Heaney

Essay: In a well-written 2-3 page essay (double spaced/MLA style) choose one of the following topics to respond to:

**Option #1:** The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. **Write a well-organized essay in which you show how *Beowulf*'s death and subsequent funeral scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.** Avoid mere plot summary.

**Option #2:** A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning.

**Focusing on one symbol you found in *Beowulf*, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.**

**Option #3:** "And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency." Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

***Beowulf*'s cultural, physical, and geographical surroundings shape his character. Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the setting and surroundings affect *Beowulf* and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.**

### **Requirements:**

- Typed, double spaced, MLA format with in-text citations (no fewer than two per body paragraph) and a works cited page.
- Make sure you have a clear and specific thesis as the last sentence in the introductory paragraph. Your thesis should be a one-sentence answer to the prompt.
- Provide textural support (details, quotes, or summaries) in ***every*** body paragraph
- Essays less than 2 pages in length will not be accepted
- You will turn in your first draft Friday, August 12, 2022, to Turnitin.com. You will have a chance to get feedback from your teacher and revise this essay before the final grade (which will be an **essay** grade).

### **AP Summer Reading PowerPoint Assignment**

**Parents:** On the next page, you will find a list of engaging and well-written stories that represent a variety of genres and time periods. While we endeavor to choose books that are representative of appropriate content, age level, and maturity, we recommend each family research the suggested selections on the Recommended Reading List. You may find sites such as [www.squeakycleanreviews.com](http://www.squeakycleanreviews.com), [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org), or [www.thrivingfamily.com](http://www.thrivingfamily.com) helpful as you discern the best publication for your student.

### **Selected Recommended Reading List for AP English Literature and Composition**

**Ancient/Medieval:**

*The Iliad* by Homer (Fagles translation)  
*The Aeneid* by Virgil (Fagles translation)  
*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles (Fagles translation)  
*Antigone* by Sophocles (Fagles translation)  
*Agamemnon* by Aeschylus (Fagles translation)  
*The Inferno* by Dante (Pinsky or Sayers translation)  
*The Quest of the Holy Grail* (W.W. Comfort translation)  
*King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* by Sir Roger Lancelyn Green (Modern Version)  
*Le Morte D'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory  
*The Prose Edda* (Penguin Classics Edition of Norse myths)  
*The Viking Spirit: An Introduction to Norse Mythology and Religion* by Daniel McCoy (Modern Version)  
*The Mabinogi and Other Medieval Welsh Tales* translated by Patrick K. Ford  
*Pearl* by the Pearl Poet (anonymous) (Borroff translation)  
*The Book of the Duchess* by Geoffrey Chaucer (any translation)

**Renaissance/Enlightenment:**

*Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes (Penguin Classic Edition)  
*Othello* by William Shakespeare  
*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare  
*Henry IV, Part 1* by William Shakespeare  
*Henry IV, Part 2* by William Shakespeare  
*Henry V* by William Shakespeare  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare  
*Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare  
*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare  
*Dr. Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe  
*St. George and the Dragon* by Sarah Kous (Modern Version of Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*)  
*Paradise Lost* by John Milton  
*Gulliver's Travels* by Johnathan Swift

**Romantic/Victorian:**

*Ivanhoe* Sir Walter Scott  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Persuasion* by Jane Austen  
*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen  
*Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll  
*Idylls of the King* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde  
*The Man Who Was Thursday* by G.K. Chesterton  
Any of the Father Brown series by G.K. Chesterton  
*Dracula* by Bram Stoker  
*War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells  
*Silas Marner* by George Eliot

**See Next Page for More Options**

## **20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Campbell

*The Dubliners* by James Joyce

*The Wasteland* by T.S. Eliot

*Murder in the Cathedral* by T.S. Eliot

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Any one of *The Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien (NOT *The Hobbit*)

Any one of *The Space Trilogy* novels by C.S. Lewis

*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

*The Man Born to be King* by Dorothy L. Sayers

Any of the Lord Peter Wimsey or Harriet Vane novels by Dorothy L. Sayers

*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

*To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf

*Howard's End* by E.M. Forster

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

## **PowerPoint Assignment, continued**

This assignment will be due on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, electronically. This will count as a **test** grade.

**In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the Internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating. If you have questions about format, email me at [esadler@princeave.org](mailto:esadler@princeave.org).**

**Create a Microsoft PowerPoint for this assignment.** Save it as "Summer Reading 2022\_BOOKNAME."

This assignment will help you and your fellow classmates have a wider knowledge base of various literary texts and forms. For this assignment, you will create a slide deck on Microsoft PowerPoint that consists of **9-10 slides**. Your slides will include:

- An **intro** slide that contains...
  - An MLA header (your name, my name, AP Lit, and 12 August 2022)
  - Your book name
  - The author's name
  - A picture of either the cover or the author
- A **plot summary** slide...
  - A **short** summary of the book (no more than 10 sentences)
  - This summary should include the ending! (spoilers are expected!)
- A **"favorite quote"** slide...
  - This slide should contain a quote (with the page number) of a quote in the text that stood out to you. This quote can be longer than a single sentence, if needed.
  - This slide should also contain an explanation of *why* that quote was important to you or important to the text as a whole
- A **protagonist** slide...
  - This slide should contain a picture of what you think the protagonist looks like
  - This slide should also contain a quote from the protagonist that you think best sums up his/her primary motivation
  - This slide should also contain a **short** explanation (3-5 sentences) of what the protagonist's goal is and why they wish to achieve that goal. Do they achieve it?
- An **antagonist** slide...
  - This slide should contain a picture of what you think the antagonist looks like
  - This slide should also contain a quote from the antagonist that you think best sums up his/her primary motivation
  - This slide should also contain a **short** explanation (3-5 sentences) of what the antagonist's goal is and why they wish to achieve that goal. Do they achieve it?

- HINT: Keep in mind that an antagonist is the character that keeps the protagonist from achieving his or her goal; this person is not necessarily a “bad person.”
  - HINT: Keep in mind that, if the conflict is internal, the protagonist may be his/her own antagonist
  - If there are multiple antagonists, choose just one to focus on!
- **2-3 Theme** slides...
  - One slide should be a **short** explanation (3-5 sentences) of **one** of the themes you picked up on in the text
    - Remember that a theme is the “main idea” of the text; it is **NOT** a moral or lesson the reader should learn
  - The remaining slide should contain **two** examples from the text that help support the theme along with a citation for each example you give (whether it’s quoted or paraphrased, it should still be cited!)
    - If your examples are too long, and you cannot fit both of the examples on one slide, split them into two slides.
- A **conclusion** slide...
  - Include a picture for visual interest
  - Tell who the “ideal audience” for this book is—who should read it? Who would most enjoy or get the most out of it?
    - HINT: Be more specific than “everyone.” Is this book for people interested in French Revolutionary history? People who enjoy cozy mystery stories by the fireplace? *etc.*
  - What was the most interesting thing you learned from this book?
    - NOTE: What you “learned” does not have to be a moral! It can be a new writing style you picked up on, a historical fact or idea, or just a general point of interest.
- A **Works Cited** slide
  - Cite the book you read in MLA format
  - Cite the web page(s) for any pictures that you used in MLA format.

### Important Notes about PowerPoints:

- Don’t put too much info on a single slide. Avoid full sentences and stick to bullet points, where possible.
- Make sure the font is at least 14 point. Also make sure the color of the font and the color of the background contrast—blue font on a blue background won’t show up!
- Keep it visually interesting! Plain white backgrounds with black text doesn’t keep people’s interest. While we won’t be presenting these in any formal context, other people will be viewing them, so you want to make sure it’s visually appealing!

### Grading:

**A** = Meaningful passages, plot and theme summary, protagonist/antagonist explanations, and quotation selections. Thoughtful interpretation and commentary about the text; avoids clichés. Includes comments about literary devices such as theme, narrative voice, point of view, imagery, conflict, symbols, etc., and how each contributes to the meaning of the text. Makes insightful personal connections and provokes thoughtful questions. Coverage of text is complete and thorough. Powerpoint is neat and visually appealing.

**B** = Less detailed, but significant, meaningful plot and quote selections. Some intelligent commentary; addresses some thematic connections. Includes some ideas of the theme, but less on how the examples contribute to the meaning. Some personal connections; asks pertinent questions. Adequately addresses all parts of reading assignment. Powerpoint is neat, complete, and readable.

**C** = Few significant details from the text. Most of the commentary is vague, unsupported, or plot summary/paraphrase. Some listing of theme and examples; virtually no discussion of meaning. Limited personal connections; asks obvious questions or makes obvious observations. Addresses most of the reading assignment, but is not very long or thorough. PowerPoint is relatively neat, but may be overly simple or difficult to read. Student did not follow all directions for organization; information is missing from some slides.

**F** = Did not complete or plagiarized. Fewer than 9 slides in deck. No Works Cited slide or citations within slides.