

**Gibbs High School**  
**Advanced Placement Literature & Composition**  
**Summer Reading 2021-2022**

**Instructor & Contact Information:**

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**Overview**

You will be reading **three (3) novels** for AP Lit & Comp: *Lord of the Flies*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and your choice of an AP-level novel from a provided list.

You are expected to

- 1) read and annotate all three (3) novels,
- 2) create a Reading Journal for *Lord of the Flies*,
- 3) write one (1) essay on *Lord of the Flies*, and
- 4) have notes on symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*.

**Due Date for Summer Reading Assignments: FRIDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**Course Expectations**

Because this is an AP course, you need to be aware of the rigorous, college-level curriculum and the expectations of effort. **The Summer Assignments are the foundations of the course, and the text selections will be the focus of our first few weeks and throughout the year.** Therefore, I ask that you take it seriously.

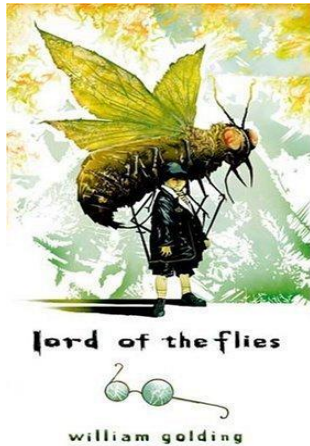
Advanced Literature & Composition (AP Lit & Comp) surveys a wide range of challenging works of literary merit in various genres. You will develop the skills necessary to comprehend and analyze these texts through discussion and composition. Students are expected to write constantly and deliberately. **By the end of the course, you should be well-prepared to tackle the complexity and intensity of the AP Lit & Comp Exam in May 2022.**

As an AP Lit & Comp student, you are expected to complete these Summer Reading assignments before the start of our class in August.

**No late summer assignments will be accepted.** There is no reason for an AP student to begin this course without the work. You are responsible for completing your work.

Most importantly, I expect you to complete your assignments independently. Do **NOT** use Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, internet sites, movie versions, etc. because I want to know your thoughts and interactions regarding these novels rather than another scholar's criticism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will be asked to sign a "Reading Pledge upon entering the classroom in the fall.

**Required Novels:** You will read and annotate both of these novels.

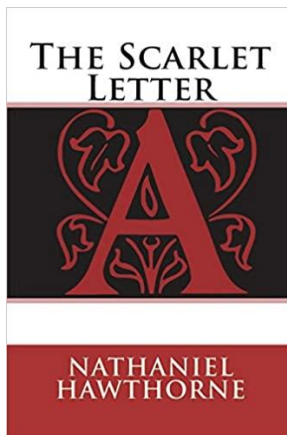


## ***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding**

William Golding's classic tale about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most celebrated and widely read of modern classics. Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition. [Amazon.com.]

*Parental Advisory: This novel is presented as a microcosm of society and illustrates the potential pitfalls of mankind. The novel contains some violence and mild language.*

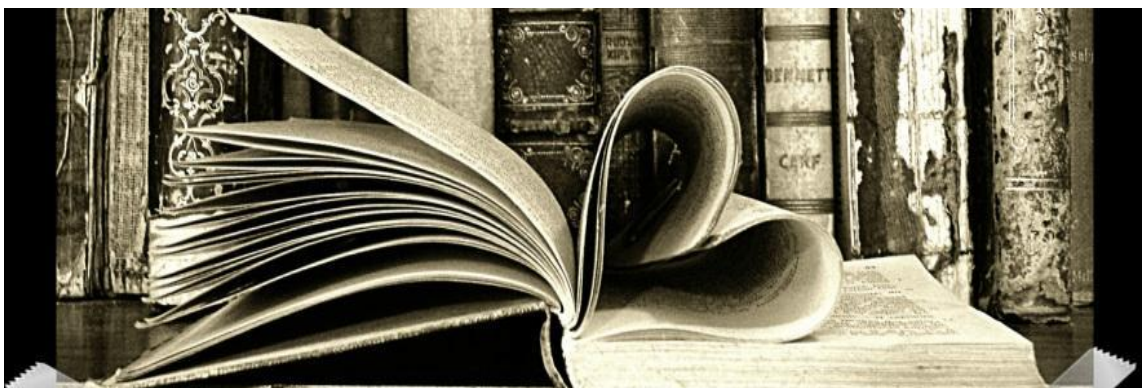
## ***The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne**



*The Scarlet Letter* is an 1850 Romantic work of fiction in a historical setting, written by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and is considered to be his magnum opus. Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts during the years 1642 to 1649, it tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt. Like all of Hawthorne's novels, "The Scarlet Letter" has but a slender plot and but few characters with an influence on the development of the story. Its great dramatic force depends entirely on the mental states of the [characters] and their relations to one another, — relations of conscience, — relations between wronged and wrongers. Its great burden is the weight of unacknowledged sin as seen in the remorse and cowardice and suffering of the Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale. Contrasted with his concealed agony, his constant confession, conveyed by the letter which is forced upon Hester, has a double effect: a healthful one, working beneficently, and making Hester helpful and benevolent, tolerant and thoughtful; and an unhealthful one, which by the great emphasis placed on her transgression, keeping her forever under its ban and isolating her from her fellows. Additionally, Roger Chillingworth is an embodiment of subtle and refined revenge. [Amazon.com]

*Parental Advisory: This novel portrays the alienation of a woman due to adultery. There are no explicit scenes or language, only the acknowledgement of the act.*

*NOTE: Should either of these novels cause concern, please contact Mrs. Williams for other options.*



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Required Novel - AP Choice Title List**

As you consider which one (1) novel you want to read, I strongly encourage you to conduct a GoodReads/Amazon search for a summary of each one and make a choice based on those findings. Maybe you prefer something short or something easy. Maybe your selection will be based on what you find interesting or intriguing. It does not matter in the least to me which novel you choose. **There is no written assignment with the third novel.** However, you will be expected to present your selection during the first week of class and you may be required to write an in-class essay in response to an AP Exam Question 3 prompt. You would do well to thoroughly understand your AP Choice Title in whatever manner works best for you: annotating the text, taking notes, etc.

#### ***An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser**

Theodore Dreiser was inspired by a true story to write this novel about an ambitious, socially insecure young man who finds himself caught between two very different women--and two very different visions of what his life could be. Clyde Griffiths was born poor and is poorly educated, but his prospects begin to improve when he is offered a job by a wealthy uncle who owns a shirt factory. Soon he achieves a managerial position, and despite being warned to stay away from the women he manages, he becomes involved with Roberta, a poor factory worker who falls in love with him. At the same time, he catches the eye of Sondra, the glamorous socialite daughter of another factory owner, and begins neglecting his lover to court her. When Roberta confronts Clyde with her pregnancy, Clyde's hopes of marrying Sondra are threatened, and he conceives a desperate plan to preserve his dream. [Amazon.com]

#### ***As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner**

*As I Lay Dying* is Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Narrated in turn by each of the family members—including Addie herself—as well as others the novel ranges in mood, from dark comedy to the deepest pathos. Considered one of the most influential novels in American fiction in structure, style, and drama, *As I Lay Dying* is a true 20th-century classic. [Amazon.com]

### ***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement. "You can't go wrong by reading or re-reading the collected works of Toni Morrison. *Beloved*, *Song of Solomon*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, everything else — they're transcendent, all of them. You'll be glad you read them."--Barack Obama. [Amazon.com]

### ***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

*Crime and Punishment* is the story of a brutal double murder and its aftermath. Raskolnikov, a poor student, kills a pawnbroker and her sister, and then has to face up to the moral consequences of his actions. It was first published in the literary journal, *The Russian Messenger*, in twelve monthly installments during 1866. It was later published in a single volume. The novel focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of its main character. It is compelling and rewarding, full of meaning and symbolism, and raises profound questions about the individual and society, and the nature of free will. [Amazon.com, et al.]

### ***Dracula* by Bram Stoker**

*Dracula* is an 1897 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker. Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread undead curse, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. *Dracula* has been assigned to many literary genres including vampire literature, horror fiction, the gothic novel and invasion literature. The novel touches on themes such as the role of women in Victorian culture, sexual conventions, immigration, colonialism, and post-colonialism. Although Stoker did not invent the vampire, he defined its modern form, and the novel has spawned numerous theatrical, film and television interpretations. (Amazon.com)

### ***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens**

*Great Expectations* is Charles Dickens's thirteenth novel and his penultimate (completed) novel; a bildungsroman which depicts the personal growth and personal development of an orphan nicknamed Pip. The novel was first published as a serial in Dickens's weekly periodical *All the Year Round*, from 1 December 1860 to August 1861. It is set among marshes in Kent, and in London, in the early to mid-1800s, and contains some of Dickens' most memorable scenes, including the opening, in a graveyard, where the young Pip is accosted by the escaped convict, Abel Magwitch. *Great Expectations* is full of extreme imagery – poverty; prison ships and chains, and fights to the death – and has a colourful cast of characters who have entered popular culture. These include the eccentric Miss Havisham, the cold and beautiful Estella, and Joe, the kind and generous blacksmith. *Great Expectations* is popular both with readers and literary critics. George Bernard Shaw praised the novel, as "All of one piece and consistently truthful." Dickens felt *Great Expectations* was his best work, calling it "a very fine, new and grotesque idea". [Amazon.com]

### ***Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison**

*Invisible Man* was selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time and nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*. It is a milestone in American literature that has continued to engage readers since its appearance in 1952. A first novel by an unknown writer, it remained on the bestseller list for sixteen weeks, won the National Book Award for fiction, and established Ralph Ellison as one of the key writers of the century. The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood," and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be. The book is a passionate and witty tour de force of style. [Amazon.com]

### ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

*Jane Eyre* follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the Byronic master of fictitious Thornfield Hall. The novel contains elements of social criticism, with a strong sense of morality at its core, but is nonetheless a novel many consider ahead of its time given the individualistic character of Jane and the novel's exploration of classism, sexuality, religion, and feminism. (Amazon.com)

### ***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde**

Oscar Wilde's only full-length novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, was first published in 1890 and is the classic tale of the moral decline of its title character, Dorian Gray. While Dorian has his portrait painted by Basil Hallward, he is lectured to by Lord Henry Wotton, who espouses a hedonistic world view. Dorian is drawn to Wotton's belief that beauty and sensuality are the only things in life worth pursuing and wishes that he would stay young while his portrait changes instead. In the years that follow Dorian pursues a life of vice and debauchery, committing unspeakable acts along the way. With the passage of time, Dorian's wish comes true, as his age and withering moral character are reflected in his portrait instead of himself. This novel is arguably one of Wilde's most popular works, which caused quite a scandal in Victorian England when it was first published, for its glorification of decadency. A chilling tale, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is at once both an intricate character study and a sharp criticism of the improprieties of the Victorian age. [Amazon.com]

### ***Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway**

*The Sun Also Rises* is a classic example of Hemingway's spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* is "an absorbing, beautifully and tenderly absurd, heartbreaking narrative...a truly gripping story, told in lean, hard, athletic prose" -- *The New York Times*. [Amazon.com]



## **Summer Reading Written Assignment #1**

### **Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021**

#### **Assignment #1 – Reading Journal**

Read *Lord of the Flies* and keep a detailed Reading Journal of the novel as described below:

Keeping a journal as you read is one of the best ways to explore a piece of writing. With this process, you integrate reading and writing and find that you can interact with the work more fully. As you read, take in every detail, every description. Try to avoid hasty analysis because it can prevent you from understanding the meaning of the novel as a whole. Remember, to analyze anything fully you must have a complete understanding of it.

You will have three sections in your Reading Journal. Your entries should be written on notebook paper **OR** in a spiral notebook **OR** you may type the entries. I would suggest that your entries be written after the reading of each chapter. All sections and sub-sections should be clearly labeled. The purpose of this journal is to assist you when we begin our discussion in the classroom.

- The first section will focus on the individual chapters of the novel. Be sure to label each chapter entry with its title and include the following: 1) a summary of the chapter and 2) your favorite passage or scene from the chapter. Include any questions you might have.
- The second section is a list of both minor and major characters (including descriptions and how they change throughout the novel). Save room for notes from class discussions.
- The third section will focus on theme. Your notes should reflect the different themes presented and how they develop within each chapter.

**All AP Lit students must submit the Reading Journal to Mrs. Williams by 8:30 am on Friday, August 13, 2021.**

**NOTE:** This can count as your annotations, but you are still encouraged to take additional notes in your book.

## Summer Reading Written Assignment #2

### Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021

#### Assignment #2 – Composition

Choose one (1) of the prompts below and draft a well-constructed essay on *Lord of the Flies*. Be sure to submit an essay that meets the expectations of an AP class. You must include textual evidence (which should be cited correctly) as well as a Works Cited page. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and follow MLA Guidelines for structure and incorporating quotes.

**All AP Lit students must submit this essay (both hard copy and on Canvas) to Mrs. Williams by 8:30 am on Friday, August 13, 2021.**

#### Lord of the Flies – Essay Prompt

Golding decided to write this masterpiece because he wanted to portray how evil human nature is. After serving in the British Navy during World War II, Golding was terrified by what he had seen in humans who had the capacity to harm their fellow species. He became convinced that, at the core, man's human nature was menacing and full of savagery. In this novel, he scrutinizes man's true struggle between good and evil.

**Option A:** The novel's setting is often important in terms of helping to develop the themes of a novel. As you read, make note of 5-6 adjectives which describe the setting, choosing at least one quote to substantiate the significance of each descriptor (i.e. text evidence to support the adjective). Then, using some or all of your adjectives, write an essay analyzing how the setting plays a significant role in promoting the theme of the novel. Be sure to incorporate the text evidence you selected and follow MLA guidelines for citing quotes!

**Option B:** It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to the characters in *Lord of the Flies*. Then, select a character who has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. Again, use quotes from the text to support your choice and follow all MLA guidelines for citing quotes!



**Summer Reading Written Assignment #3**  
**Due Date: 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021**

**Assignment #3 – Symbolism Notes**

As you read and annotate *The Scarlet Letter*, make note of any symbols that you find in your reading. Create a document (either handwritten or typed) that lists the symbols and what they stand for. If you are not sure, make an educated guess. FYI: Do not use the internet!!

**All AP Lit students must submit a hard copy of this list to Mrs. Williams by 8:30 am on Friday, August 13, 2021.**



**Last Notes**

I have attached an Annotation Guide from AP Central that will help you with your annotations. Please know that I sincerely want you to be successful in the AP Lit classroom. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, need clarification, or simply want to talk out expectations.



**I am super excited to see you in the AP Lit classroom!!**





## NOTES ABOUT ANNOTATION (from the AP Central Website)

### Why Annotate?

- Annotate any text that you must know well, in detail, and from which you might need to produce evidence that supports your knowledge or reading, such as a book on which you will be tested.
- Don't assume that you must annotate when you read for pleasure; if you're relaxing with a book, well, relax. Still, some people - let's call them "not-abnormal" - actually annotate for pleasure.

Don't annotate other people's property, which is almost always selfish, often destructive, rude, and possibly illegal. For a book that doesn't belong to you, use adhesive notes for your comments, removing them before you return the text.

Don't annotate your own book if it has intrinsic value as an art object or a rarity. Consider doing what teachers do: *buy an inexpensive copy of the text for class.*

### Tools: Highlighter, Pencil, and Your Own Text

1. **Yellow Highlighter:** A yellow highlighter allows you to mark exactly what you feel is necessary. Equally important, the yellow line emphasizes without interfering. Highlights in blue and pink and fluorescent colors are even more distracting. The idea is to see the important text more clearly, not give your eyes a psychedelic exercise.

While you read, highlight whatever seems to be key information. At first, you will probably highlight too little or too much; with experience, you will choose more effectively which material to highlight.

2. **Pencil:** A pencil is better than a pen because you can make changes. Even geniuses make mistakes, temporary comments, and incomplete notes.

While you read, use marginalia - marginal notes - to make key material. Marginalia can include check marks, question marks, stars, arrows, brackets, and written words and phrases. Create your own system for marking what is important, interesting, quotable, questionable, and so forth.

3. **Your Text:** Inside the front cover of your book, keep an orderly, legible list of "key information" with page references. Key information in a novel might include themes; passages that relate to the book's title; characters' names' salient quotes; important scenes, passages, and chapters; and maybe key definitions or vocabulary. Remember that key information will vary according to genre and the reader's purpose, so make your own good plan.

As you read, section by section, paragraph by paragraph, **consider doing the following, if useful or necessary:**

- At the end of each chapter or section, **briefly** summarize the material.
- Title each chapter or section as soon as you finish it, especially if the text does not provide headings for chapters or sections.
- Make a list of vocabulary words on a back page or the inside back cover. Possible ideas for lists include the author's special jargon and new, unknown, or otherwise interesting words.
- Note important plot happenings.
- Note supporting details or textual evidence to support a conclusion you are drawing.
- Note the writer's craft to create effect, such as figurative language, imagery, characterization, etc.

Regardless of your method, annotating your text will allow you the greatest success in the AP Lit classroom!!