

AP Literature

REQUIRED: Read *The Kite Runner* by **Khaled Hosseini** and **complete the dialectical journal*** according to the instructions. Published in 2003, this is an unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant. Caught in the tragic sweep of history, the global settings transport readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship and the burdens of guilt, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption. Family relationships are also explored through the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies. Previous AP students have labeled this book as the most moving text they've ever read. Mrs. Fine has several copies if you want one.

(Some content may be objectionable; an alternate text is available; email anne.fine@knoxschools.org)

REQUIRED: Read *The Great Gatsby* and **PREPARE A LITERARY ONE-PAGER***: Set in the Jazz Age where “anything can happen once [you've] slid over the bridge” and into the corrupt city, Fitzgerald's novel manages to capture the decadence and hedonism of the 1920s while exposing some themes that are still relevant today. It is a multi-layered novel about a young man's obsessive quest for the love of one girl. Review the requirements for the one-pager and then actively read and annotate your copy. Be careful! The movies are not aligned with the book. We highly recommend that you skip the movie until after the AP exam.

EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES: YOU MAY READ ANY OF THESE AND SEE YOUR INSTRUCTOR IN AUGUST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

The Island of Sea Women, (Lisa See): Published in 2019, this text is an evocative tale of two best friends whose bonds are both strengthened and tested over decades by forces beyond their control. Two girls from strikingly different backgrounds bond over their shared love of the sea. Working in their village's all-female diving collective, the two friends come of age in a community where gender roles are anything but typical. Here, women are the primary breadwinners, the heads of household in all but name, and yet, as Mi-ja and Young-sook come to realize, there are limits to their control that can prove devastating. If you're looking for an epic tale of historical fiction where the female characters rock, this is for you!

The Picture of Dorian Gray, (Oscar Wilde): Published in 1890, is a Gothic and philosophical tale that is an all-time favorite of AP students. As the young man who purchases eternal youth at the tragic expense of his soul, Dorian Gray will be the archetypal character you will love to hate. Themes of youth, mortality, and the choices of good versus evil are woven throughout. See or email your instructor for a copy if you need one.

The Road, (Cormac McCarthy): Touted as McCarthy's most harrowing yet deeply personal work, this book is a journey that will not be forgotten. Some unnamed catastrophe has scourged the world to a burnt-out cinder, inhabited by the last remnants of mankind. The sky is perpetually

shrouded by dust as a man and a boy struggle to find safety and hope. If you like post-apocalyptic stories, you will enjoy and be moved by this story. You can grab a copy from Mrs. Fine in room 323.

Extra-credit study questions: Students can request a reading guide for *The Kite Runner* from Mrs. Fine (anne.fine@knoxschools.org) if they wish. Completed reading guides are due on the first day of classes and will be counted as extra-credit during the semester.

***NOTE:** Students can obtain instructions for the **dialectical journal** (*The Kite Runner*) and **literary one-pager** (your choice read) from Mrs. Nescha Lee or Mrs. Anne Fine before the end of the year or via the email address below. **The instructions are also available on the school website.**

Due dates: Both the journal and the literary one-pager are due on the first full day of school. A summer reading essay will be assigned during the first two weeks of the semester.

**If you are a rising 11th grader who registered for yearlong AP Seminar/Language Combined instead of AP Literature, please continue to the next page.*