

Dear 2019-2020 AP English Students:

First, congratulations on registering for AP English Literature and Composition. I hope that you will find the class to be challenging and enlightening. Next year, you will approach literature in a different way. It will not be enough to know *what* happens in a novel or play; you will analyze *why* things happen and *how* the author conveys his ideas to the reader during your exploration for universal themes. You will also make plenty of connections between literature of the past and contemporary society. AP Literature focuses on reading, writing, analysis, and discussion. This course is considered *reading* and *writing intensive*. This means that you will read about 30-50 pages a week while writing 2-4 pages of written work per week while responding to texts regularly. This equates to about 3 hours of homework a week in AP Literature. You *must* be prepared to work hard, share your own interpretations, work with others and have a good time. By the time this course is over, you'll have a much greater appreciation for the purpose of literature in society, you'll be a stronger reader, and you'll grow considerably as a writer.

During your first class in September, we will discuss the specifics of what an AP English Literature class requires, but suffice it to say that having a wide reading experience is fundamental to your success. In addition to continuing to read a wide variety of literature, it is important for you to be introduced to some literary terminology. That being the case, over the summer I would like for you to complete *two assignments*: **Assignment 1** - Literary Terms Project and **Assignment 2** – *The Kite Runner* assignment.

These assignments will be due **during the second week of school**. *The Kite Runner* is available at the public library, but I strongly urge you to purchase your own copy so that you can make notes in it (annotate) as you read and as we go over discussion questions in the first week of school.

While we are on the subject of reading, let us mention Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, Monarch Notes, gradesaver.com, and the like. Study aids are not a problem as long as they are used as that -- study aids -- and not as replacements for reading the novels and plays. No matter how detailed they are, a study aid will NOT replace actually reading a novel or play because you will not have the experience of watching the author develop his or her story. As a result, you will not fully understand the work and will not be able to discuss it and analyze it to the extent that will be required. A goal of this course is for you to develop your own thoughts, not someone else's. Along the same lines, I expect ALL written work submitted to me to be your original material.

If you have any questions about these assignments or about anything else pertaining to AP Literature, please stop by Room 71 (Mrs. Mistler) before the end of the year or e-mail me at any time over the summer. I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you during your senior year. Have a great summer!

Kristen Mistler
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AP ENGLISH LITERATURE -- SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

Henrico County Public Schools strongly encourages parents/guardians to work with their children as they work on their summer assignments.

Please type and pledge all written assignments

Assignment #1: Literary Terms Mastery

For this assignment, you will master some of the most common literary terms from Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. See the Directions for Assignment #1 on page 3 of this document. **Worth 1 Quiz Grade.**

Assignment 2 - *The Kite Runner*

For this assignment, you will read, annotate, and answer discussion questions for the novel, *The Kite Runner*. See the Directions for Assignment #2 on page 4 of this document. **Worth 2 Quiz Grades.**

Good luck this summer!

- Assignments follow on next page -

Assignment #1: Literary Terms Mastery

For Assignment 1, you will create a visual artifact that shows your mastery of basic literary terminology that you will use all year long in this course. Your visual can come in a variety of forms: a book, a poster, a digital creation, a moviemaker, a website, or any other visual medium (feel free to email me for ideas). Whatever you decide to do, you must complete the following for **each** of the 35 literary terms below:

Literary Terms most commonly associated with ...		
Fiction	Poetry	Drama
Protagonist	Simile	Tragedy
Antagonist	Metaphor	Comedy
Conflict	Allusion	Realistic Drama
Characterization	Hyperbole	Nonrealistic Drama
Point of View	Personification	Soliloquy
Irony	Imagery	Aside
Symbol	Denotation	Melodrama
Climax	Connotation	Farce
Setting	Apostrophe	
Theme	Metonymy	
Mood	Alliteration	
Tone	Assonance	
	Caesura	
	Synecdoche	
	Paradox	

- 1) Define each word using an internet definition (make sure to cite and include in a Works Cited Page).
- 2) Define each word using your own words (this will help you start practicing paraphrasing).
- 3) Create a picture (or something visual) that demonstrates your understanding of the literary term.
- 4) Write a one to three sentence explanation of why/how your visual depicts the literary term.

You must also include a Works Cited page for your internet or dictionary definitions, and for any images that you include that you pull from the internet.

This assignment will be due during the beginning of the school year and will count as **one quiz grade**.

Furthermore, you will have a TEST on your understanding of these literary terms in the second week of school.

Assignment #2: *The Kite Runner*

For Assignment 2, you will read the novel, *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. As you read, you will be expected to annotate your text (as we will do for ALL works read in this class). You will also be expected to answer the following discussion questions for each set of chapters. We will begin our study of literature by discussing this novel in the first week of school.

Annotations: As you read, annotate your novel by recording your reactions to the text, identifying literary techniques the author uses, or whatever else you feel necessary to fully engage with the text. If you have purchased the book, you may annotate by writing directly in your copy of the novel. If you are borrowing a copy, you can complete a double-sided journal (as detailed on page 5) with your annotations. You will be expected to complete at least 40 annotations evenly spaced out across the entirety of the novel. Your annotation check will occur the first week of school and will count as **a second quiz grade**.

Discussion Questions: For each section of text, you will answer several discussion questions that we will go over as a class the first week of school. For each question, you will need to answer in detail and include evidence from the text to back up your answer. If you are directly quoting the novel, don't forget to include the page number. You may either type or neatly print your answers. This will count as **a third quiz grade**.

Chapters 1-6

1. How does Hosseini use contrasts to prove a point in this section?
2. How does Amir's relationship with his father affect his personality? How does jealousy motivate Amir?
3. What does friendship look like in this novel?

Chapters 7-10

1. Chapter 7 is an important chapter in this novel. In addition to giving us a "real-time" narration of what happened that day, Amir also provides some italicized narration. What are these italicized sections? What is the purpose of including them in this chapter and interrupting his "real-time" narration?
2. How does Amir's guilt manifest itself?
3. What is the point of Rahim Khan's story in chapter 8? What was the moral? What effect does it have on Amir?

Chapters 11-16

1. Amir states at the beginning of Chapter 11, "Baba loved the idea of America. It was living in America that gave him an ulcer." What are some of the differences between America and Afghanistan as portrayed in this book?
2. How does Amir's relationship with his father change once they are in America? Why?
3. Describe Amir's courtship of Soraya. What does it imply about the nature of Afghan culture? How is it different from what we are used to in America?

Chapters 17-25

1. Did Rahim Khan and Baba do the right thing hiding the true nature of Hassan and Amir's relationship? Why or why not?
2. In chapter 22, a lot of loose ends are tied up. How is the chapter a resolution (in a way) for things started years ago (think about the Assef, the slingshot, Amir's attitude, etc.)? How does the chapter parallel past events?
3. Rahim Khan says that true redemption is when "guilt leads to good". Judging by the end of the novel, does Amir achieve redemption? Why or why not?

Double-Sided Journal Instructions
(to be used in lieu of annotating directly in novel)

If you do not wish to purchase your own copy of *The Kite Runner*, you can keep a double-sided journal to record your annotations. On the left side, you will record the quote and page number to which you are responding. On the right side, you will record your own reaction, commentary, literary analysis, etc.

EXAMPLE (from *Fahrenheit 451*):

Quote	Reaction
<p>“With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal ruins of history.” (1)</p>	<p>Metaphors to describe the fireman’s job--the hose is a “great python” and his hands are those of an “amazing conductor” creating a masterpiece of fire.</p>
<p>“But the strangely comfortable and rare and gently flattering light of the candle. One time, as a child, in a power failure, his mother had found and lit a last candle and there had been a brief hour of rediscovery, of such illumination that space lost its vast dimensions and drew comfortably around them, and they, mother and son, alone, transformed, hoping that the power might not come on again too soon...” (5)</p>	<p>There must be no more need for candles in this society. The candles represent a simpler time to him.</p>