

AP LITERATURE SUMMER READING JOURNAL

- Choose a single fiction AND a single nonfiction book to read over the summer!
- The fiction book will be used to write a timed, day one, in-class essay.
- For both of the books that you choose, you must create a lit journal. Both should be in the same folio/notebook/what have you.
- You must use the Double-Entry format (instructions just below), but otherwise, this is open ended – meaning you are free to interpret your chosen texts as creatively as you like, including art, alluding to other texts, films, songs, etc. You have artistic license for how this assignment will look and how I am to interact with it.

Double-Entry Journal Format—

The paper should be divided in half vertically.

One side is a quote from the text. It should be at least three lines and no more than one short paragraph, fully written out and cited with the page number. The quotes should be chosen because you believe that they represent a key point about a theme or a character in the novel, especially the above-mentioned theme of the conflict between the individual and society.

The other side should contain you noticing stuff. Articulate the following—

Any observations regarding character/character development, conflict, theme, rhetorical devices/word choice, setting, allusions, and form/structure.

Any unfamiliar language.

Any analysis regarding tone, and what it indicates about the author's attitude toward the subject or the character

Any interpretation or analysis of significant imagery, symbolism, or metaphors being used by the author

To Note—

Your entries should span the entire book (there needs to be clear evidence that you've read the whole novel).

Do not simply restate the meaning of the quote in your own words—this is your opportunity to interact with the language and the ideas of the author at a critical level.

How will your journal be evaluated?

Your double-entry journals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Quantity—Variety: There is a wide variety of the kinds of notes and questions, ranging from specific literary device analysis to broad themes. I will look, too, for your personal reaction and thoughts.

Quantity—Quality: The quantity and quality of questions and notes demonstrate a strenuous effort to contemplate, and to respond to the complete text. It should be informative and helpful to you, not burdensome and not the bane of your summer.

Language: Questions and notes demonstrate an in depth understanding of, and curiosity about the language used in the text. You should note words and definitions for unfamiliar words. Use a dictionary.

Searching for Patterns and Themes: Questions and notes demonstrate an excellent awareness of patterns and themes developing in the text.

Plagiarism, such as copying another student's journal or Sparknotes, etc. will result in a failing grade.

Basic Responses...

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Higher Level Responses Also...

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery, etc.)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc.)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

AP LITERATURE SUMMER READING LIST

Fiction (Choose ONE)

John Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath (Lexile: 680)

445 pages

An unforgettable portrait of the migrants who left the dust bowl for the promised land of California.

William Faulkner

Light in August

512 pages

Joe Christmas, who appears to be white but is part African-American, kills Joanna Burden, a spinster with whom he has had an affair. He is captured, castrated, and killed by outraged townspeople.

Ralph Ellison

Invisible Man (Lexile: 950)

572 pages

In the course of his wanderings from a Southern college to New York's Harlem, an African-American man becomes involved in a series of adventures.

Tennessee Williams

A Streetcar Named Desire

192 pages

Blanche DuBois, a haggard and fragile southern beauty finds her pathetic last grasp at happiness cruelly destroyed in large part by her brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski.

William Shakespeare

Taming of the Shrew

124 pages

A comedy about a bad-tempered woman who is tamed by the man who claims her for his wife

A Midsummer Night's Dream

204 pages

When two pairs of star-crossed lovers, a troop of inept amateur actors, a feuding pair of supernatural sprites and a love potion gone awry all come together in an enchanted moonlit forest, the result is an unequalled mixture of merriment and magic.

Thomas Wolfe

Look Homeward, Angel

662 pages

Describes the coming of age of Eugene Gant, his boyhood in North Carolina and his growing passion to experience life.

Zora Neale Hurston

Their Eyes Were Watching God (Lexile: 1080)

231 pages

A Black woman searches for a fulfilling relationship through two loveless marriages and finally finds it in the person of Tea Cake, an itinerant laborer and gambler.

Kurt Vonnegut

Slaughterhouse Five (Lexile: 850)

215 pages

A fourth-generation German-American is tortured by his memories of the firebombing of Dresden in 1944 which he witnessed while a prisoner of war.

Toni Morrison

Beloved (Lexile: 870)

275 pages

Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.

Tom Stoppard

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

126 pages

Presents the play of Hamlet as seen through the eyes of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

182 pages

Tells of a labor camp inmate's struggle to maintain his dignity in the face of Communist oppression.

Robert Heinlein

Stranger in a Strange Land (Lexile: 940)

438 pages

After his arrival on Earth from his home on Mars, Valentine Michael Smith becomes the founder and pastor of a new religious sect.

Jostein Gaarder

Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy

518 pages

Uses the life of a schoolgirl, Sophie, as a backdrop for a discussion of the meaning of life and the history of philosophy.

Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time (Lexile: 1180)

226 pages

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Audrey Niffenegger

The Time Traveler's Wife (Lexile: 780)

546 pages

Clare and Henry, deeply in love, try desperately to maintain normal lives even though he has been diagnosed with Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition in which his genetic clock periodically resets, pulling him through time to the past or future.

Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

413 pages

A novel about a spirited young woman in early nineteenth-century England who must cope with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters

Emily Bronte

Wuthering Heights (Lexile: 1380)

320 pages

Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.

Alice Sebold

The Lovely Bones (Lexile:890)

328 pages

Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of a sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice.

Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner (Lexile: 840)

324 pages

Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official.

Carolyn Parkhurst

The Dogs of Babel

264 pages

Linguist Paul Iverson, desperate to learn the truth about his wife Lexy's death, sets out to teach their dog, the only witness to Lexy's supposed fall from a tree, to speak and give an account of the incident.

Laura Esquivel

Like Water for Chocolate (Lexile: 1030)

245 pages

A romantic and poignant tale of love and family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico.

Barbara Kingsolver

The Poisonwood Bible (Lexile: 960)

546 pages

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

One Hundred Years of Solitude (Lexile: 1410)

The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo as told through the history of the Buendía family.

Dennis Lehane

Mystic River

401 pages

The past comes back to haunt three men who shared a friendship as children when Sean Devine, now a policeman, is assigned to investigate the murder of Jimmy Marcus's teenager daughter, a crime the third member of their group, Dave Boyle, is suspected of committing.

John Irving

The World According to Garp

688 pages

The son of a famous radical feminist spends his life struggling with his diverse personal relationships and with his ambition to be a writer.

NONFICTION (Choose ONE)

Lynne Truss

Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation

209 pages

Lynne Truss, a self-proclaimed stickler, presents a humorous look at the history of punctuation, discussing the use and misuse of commas, apostrophes, semi-colons, and other punctuation marks.

Alice Sebold

Lucky

254 pages

The author tells the story of her violent rape at the age of eighteen, her accidental sighting of her attacker six months later, the resulting trial and conviction of the man, and the trauma she suffered for years afterwards.

Dave Eggers

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

437 pages

A memoir in which the author discusses the unrelated deaths of his parents within a period of months, his newly acquired responsibility for his eight-year-old brother, and his creation of a satirical

magazine. Also includes an appendix of corrections and clarifications by the author.

Art Spiegelman

Maus (Graphic novel)

295 pages

Memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Jim Carroll

The Basketball Diaries

210 pages

A diary of the author's early teen years in the mid-1960s, telling how he progressed from sniffing glue to shooting heroin while playing basketball for Trinity High School in Manhattan.

Tobias Wolff

This Boy's Life

288 pages

Wolff's account of his boyhood and the process of growing up includes paper routes, whiskey, scouting, fistfights, friendship, betrayal, and America in the fifties.

Azar Nafisi

Reading Lolita in Tehran

347 pages

The author presents a memoir of her life in post-revolutionary Iran, focusing on her organization of a group of young women in 1997 who met secretly once a week to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature.

Ron Kovic

Born on the Fourth of July

216 pages

A veteran of Vietnam describes his experiences in the war and his reentry into American society after he was paralyzed.

Robert Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance (Lexile: 1040)

418 pages

A father and his eleven-year-old son take a motorcycle trip across the country, and together, the two learn about life, love, and identity.

David Pelzer

A Child Called "It" (Lexile: 850)

184 pages

David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother's brutality and triumphed over his past.