Advanced Placement

English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment – 2009

The purpose of this summer reading assignment is personal enjoyment and growth in your knowledge of literature. The Bible and classical mythology are two sources for most of the literary allusions and recurring themes found in the literature of Western civilization. The novels offered on the reading list allow you numerous opportunities for exploration of literature and will allow you to increase your familiarity with a number of "major works" before the Advanced Placement Examination.

July: The Bible

Be prepared to discuss all of the following people and events. You are required to take notes on the following people and events, including the chapters in which they are found. You need not write in complete sentences, since the notes are solely for your own use. You should use the King James version, but feel free to consult any of the more modern translations as an aid to your understanding.

Genesis:

1. Creation of the world and mankind 2.Original sin 3. Expulsion from Eden 4. Noah 5. Tower of Babel 6. Abraham and Sarah, Abraham and Hagar, Ishmael, Sarah's pregnancy 7. Sodom and Gomorrah 8. Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac 9. Jacob and Esau 10. Joseph and his brothers, Joseph in Egypt, Joseph's power

Exodus:

1. Israelites and slaves in Egypt 2. Moses' birth and early life 3. Moses and Aaron's

confrontation with Pharaoh  4. The Passover and the flight from Egypt pursued by soldiers  5. Red Sea to Mt. Sinai  6. Ten Commandments  7. Aaron and the Golden Calf

Ruth:

1. Ruth's courageous decision  2. Ruth in the fields of Boaz  3. Ruth becomes engaged to Boaz  4. Ruth the ancestress of David

Job:

From the book of Job, I would like you to read through the discussions so that you have a sense of what is happening. Pay specific attention to the wager between God and Satan, Job's final reply to his three friends (chapters 29-31), the nature poems (the Lord's response to Job), and the epilogue.

New Testament:

Read through Matthew and Luke very carefully. Know why Jesus uses parables and briefly relate four parables. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Know about the walk on water, and Jesus' conversation with Peter. What is the miracle of the loaves and fishes? Be familiar with the Last supper and with Jesus' betrayal by Judas. Who is Mary Magdalene? Who is Pontius Pilate? Who is Barrabas? Read in Luke about the raising of Lazrus. Relate at least three of Jesus' miracles. Be familiar with the details of the crucifixion and the resurrection.

August: Classical Mythology

Please obtain a copy of Edith Hamilton's Mythology at your local library or bookstore. There are many other mythology texts, but hers is probably the most comprehensive. I encourage you to buy a copy to keep as part of your own personal library.

Take notes as you read, at least at the end of each chapter. This will make studying for the test much easier.

Introduction - The Mythology of the Greeks

Part One - The Gods, Creation, and Earliest Heroes

Part Two - Stories of Love and Adventure

Part Three - The Great Heroes before the Trojan War

Part Four - The Heroes of the Trojan War

Part Five - The Royal House of Thebes

You will have a comprehensive test on the readings from The Bible and Mythology after school begins in the fall. For this reason, I encourage you to be thoughtful in your reading and take fairly detailed notes.

You are also required to read one novel from the approved summer reading list (see attached). The choice you make will not only give you more choices for possible use on the AP Exam but could also become sources for literary research next spring.

You must keep a reading log/dialectic journal for the novel of your choice. Your entries should include observation and analysis about the characters, conflict, setting, and literary devices as well as connections and/or questions that may arise from your reading. Always read for the deeper level of understanding, and reflect that meaning in your journal.

No “Cliff’s Notes” or other such helpers should be used. Journals will be collected on the first Friday of class. They will be graded on quality and effort. Take these entries seriously. Again, your notes should be complete, focusing on the characters, plot, theme,

style, etc. of the novel; you will want to use them on the written examination in the fall.

Remember, minimal effort earns minimal reward.

A good reading log might be formatted as follows:

* A page per chapter or at least two lines skipped before discussing the next chapter.

* On the page include:

1. A brief summary of the chapter
2. A response to the chapter. A response is not a retelling of the plot. It is instead a discussion of significant changes in character, of symbolism, of sentences or phrases that strike you as particularly strong, a discussion of the author's style, comparisons to other works you have read, ideas about themes, insights to the reading, or questions about the work
3. A list of vocabulary words that are new to you. If you simply list the words and offer no definition, your vocabulary will not grow. Find out the meanings of these words and look at them again in the context of the passages in which they appear.

* If your novel has short chapters or very few chapters, decide on the best approach for breaking it into manageable segments for your reading log. You will not be able to use your novel during the written examination, just your reading log. I encourage you to be thorough in your work.

Lauren Davenport

APPROVED SUMMER READING LIST - 2009

ATWOOD, Margaret Canadian 20th C The Handmaid's Tale

BRONTE, Emily British 19th C Wuthering Heights

CAMUS, Albert French 20th C The Plague

CONRAD, Joseph British 19th C Lord Jim

DICKENS, Charles British 19th C Great Expectations

DOSTOEVSKY, Fedor Russian 19th C Crime and Punishment

ELLISON, Ralph American 20th C Invisible Man

FAULKNER, William American 20th C As I Lay Dying

FLAUBERT, Gustave French 19th C Madame Bovary

GARCIA-MARQUEZ, G. Colombian 20th C One Hundred Years of Solitude

HEMINGWAY, Ernest American 20th C The Sun Also Rises

MELVILLE, Herman American 19th C Moby Dick

MORRISON, Toni American 20th C Beloved

PATON, Alan South African 20th C Cry, The Beloved Country

SILKO, Leslie American 20th C Ceremony

TOLSTOY, Leo Russian 19th C Anna Karenina

TWAIN, Mark American 19th C Huckleberry Finn

WOOLF, Virginia British 20th C To the Lighthouse

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Students who choose to enroll in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition should be prepared for the challenge of a college level curriculum. The AP Course Guide states that the purpose for providing this opportunity is “so that strong, motivated students can complete meaningful elements of college level studies.” Students who sign up for the class should be willing to accept the rigor of a class that will prepare them college level studies and the Advanced Placement exam in May.

We, the student and parent(s), acknowledge and support the expectations of the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition class as well as the summer reading assignment. We understand that the summer reading journal and notes are a pre-requisite for the course. In addition, we understand that failure to complete the summer reading will jeopardize enrollment in Advanced Placement English.

Date_____

Print name of student_____

Signature of student_____

Signature of parent_____

Please return this contract to (before or after school) by
Thank you in advance for your careful preparation for this class.

Lauren Davenport