

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Summer Reading 2009- 2010

You have been recommended for A.P. English for the upcoming school year. It is a privilege and a great achievement to be accepted into the A.P. program. Your placement in the class is contingent upon the completion summer reading in preparation for class. **If you do not complete this assignment, your grade for the first nine weeks will suffer severely.**

For your summer reading assignment, you will be required to read three books:

Part 1. Read *1984* by George Orwell: Due 8/24

Answer these questions to completion:

What is the significance of the title of the novel?

Identify the most significant symbol in the novel and justify your choice.

State two possible themes in the novel, and support your position using quotations as justification.

Describe how the setting complements the primary themes of the novel.

Part 2. Choose a book from the list: Due 8/24

- a. F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- b. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- c. Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
- d. Margaret Atwood, *A Handmaid's Tale*

After you read the book for part 2, **complete** the following essay based on the prompt. A traditional formatted answer will suffice; responses are usually no longer than three pages. However, length is not as much an issue as is coverage of all aspects of the prompt.

The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, "Nobody, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man's mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time."

Use the book you selected for Part 2 and choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain **how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.**

Part 3. Read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston: Due 9/1

You will be writing an essay on this book in class.

I am very excited about the adventure that lies ahead for us in your senior year. **If you have any questions, please call me at 352-226-3555 or email me at EHSEnglish4@gmail.com.**

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Franklin