

A.P. Literature and Composition
Summer Work, 2018
Mrs. Becky Boyd, bboyd@marisths.org

“Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work.” – Novelist Umberto Eco

I want you to read this summer.

Below are three assignments that require you to read.

- Please plan to finish your choice of one of these: *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Swamplandia!*, or *The Burning Girl* collectively known hereafter as “The Ferrari Texts”
- AND one additional option from the attached list. These texts are commonly referenced “Free Response” choices from AP tests in recent years. Choose a book based on your interest, ability, and values. You are to complete each assignment, which I will record as the first tests in Quarter 1. Failure to complete summer work will make it impossible to earn an A for the semester. But that’s not the point. Read. Enjoy.

Assignment #1 (due the first day of class)

Finish your Ferrari Text. On the first day of class you will be given an in-class essay test over the book. The question will be taken from a past AP exam and graded against the same standards and criteria as an AP exam.

To help you prepare, I encourage you to do your own research via AP central on collegeboard.com.

Assignment #2 (due the first day of class)

Take some real time and consideration choosing a book (different from the Ferrari texts). This should be a good read. I want you to enjoy this book, look forward to reading it, be moved by it, and be provoked by it. Once you have chosen your book and you begin reading it, I would like you to respond **THREE** times with your thoughts and reactions. You can read at your own pace but I would prefer that your responses be spread out over the text and over the summer. Each response should cover the following in a casual but intelligent manner (figure about 1-2 pages):

1. Date of your response and the pages or chapters read
2. Observations, thoughts, and questions
3. 3-5 quotes of importance
4. Connections (These could be to things you have heard, read, seen, experienced, etc. I want you to try to extend the story outside of its pages)

You will be graded on how thoughtful your responses are. Do not summarize events; instead, interact with the novel. **Be specific, thorough, and honest.** Caution: copying words or ideas from other sources (such as Spark Notes) is plagiarism and will result in an automatic zero.

Assignment #3 (due at the end of the first week of class)

In AP Literature you will be required to revisit literary and rhetorical devices constantly. Knowing what these devices are, where to find them, and how to show that they add meaning will be the crux of our work. You are to find and record examples of **15 different** terms total from the books you read this summer. An excellent list of terms may be found at <http://ai.stanford.edu/~csewell/culture/litterms.htm>

Please record them in the following format:

Entry # (1-15)

A. Text and page number

B. quotation

C. label (device)

D. explain the writer's intended effect on reader and how it adds meaning.

The following is a sample entry from *Frankenstein*:

1

A. Frankenstein, page 18

B. "He came like a protecting spirit to the poor girl, who committed herself to his care."

C. Simile

D. The man is being compared to a spirit that protects the girl from harm. This simile helps portray a positive tone and shows us more about Victor's father's characteristics. There are many references to spirits and heavenly attributes throughout descriptions of the characters in the novel. This gives the reader an overall sense that the ideas of a heavenly power or religious spirit will be important in the novel and determines a character's demeanor.

This assignment should follow your first reading of your texts. You need to understand the stories before you tackle this assignment. **Read the books first. Go back and do this after.**

The List:

All the Light We Cannot See

All the Pretty Horses

Frankenstein

Great Expectations

O Pioneers!

Pride and Prejudice

The Color Purple

The Handmaid's Tale

The Picture of Dorian Gray

The Scarlet Letter

The Things They Carried

To Kill a Mockingbird