

Dear incoming student,

Welcome to AP English Literature. It may seem odd receiving a letter from a teacher before ever meeting, but I wanted to pass along some information before you entered class.

First and foremost, I am very pleased you have decided to be a part of this class. I expect you are a strong reader and writer who looks forward to a rigorous course that will ask you to think, create, reflect, and grow. I believe you all can do well on the AP exam given in the spring provided you want to be a part of a community of learners.

Because of the schedule at MHS, it is necessary we all hit the ground running when you arrive in class. Therefore, as I'm sure you are aware, you will want to make sure you have read all required reading before coming the first day. As a reminder, **you are required to read one book and a variety of poems from the required AP list found below.** Book titles are listed below.

Assignments

1. Summer Novel Assignment

Read one of the following books and be ready to write an in-class writing assignment during the first week.

- *Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri
- *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
- *Water for Elephants* – Sara Gruen
- *The Help* – Kathryn Stockett

First week in-class Writing Assignment

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| “A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.” - Italo Calvino | “Literature is news that stays news.” - Ezra Pound |
| “What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote.” - E.M. Forster | “The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you pose.” - Margaret Atwood |

In the first week of class you will be asked to choose one of the quotes above and in a well written essay, explain how your summer reading book relates to the quote above. Remember that this is an essay that will be placed in the grade book. You will be required to use direct text evidence (quotes) to support your answer. Be sure to come to class with the book annotated to use as a resource for your essay. Your teacher will not be able to provide extra copies of the book.

2. Summer Poetry Assignment (Bring your essay and annotated poems to class on Day 1)

From the authors listed below, discover and annotate 10 poems of your choice. Then, choose two poems from different authors to answer the following question: **How do the authors use imagery to develop a common theme?**

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| Angelou , Maya | Dickinson , Emily | Keats, John |
| Jonson , Ben | Poe, Edgar Allan | Whitman, Walt |
| Frost, Robert | Shakespeare, William | Huidobro, Vicente |
| Neruda , Pablo | Hughes, Langston | Heaney, Seamus |
| Moore, Marianne | Bishop , Elizabeth | Donne, John |
| Plath , Sylvia | Collins, Billy | St. Vincent Millay, Edna |
| Rosetti, Christina | Soto , Gary | Paz, Octavio |
| Wheatley , Phillis | Alcott , Louisa May | Brooks, Gwendolyn |

Good luck with your assignments. I really am looking forward to meeting you on the first day of class. I am excited to once again teach AP English Literature and can't wait to work with you.

Your MHS AP Literature Teacher