

AP Literature and Composition

Congratulations and welcome!

Having selected Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, you are about to embark on a memorable educational experience.

A year of reading, discussing, writing, and interacting lies ahead. You will be expected to contribute ideas and opinions, question assumptions and pronouncements, listen to various views, and produce written and spoken expressions of your conclusions.

The curriculum of the AP Literature and Composition English course is based on the Duke University model with a syllabus that includes short story, poetry, drama and novel units. We are using *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, prepared as a college freshman English text, along with selected paperbacks. As an AP Literature student, you will also select a literary work to read and analyze independently for your critical paper assignment.

In keeping with the philosophy of the Advanced Placement English Committee of the College Boards, we will launch our academic year with two summer readings and a writing assignment. Please read the following works:

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

In addition, you will compose five journal entries that will express your ideas and observations in your own voice and style. These journals are due on the first full day of classes.

Required Journal Topics:

1. An analytical reaction to a movie or play you have seen recently in the theater or on video.

OR

A response to a piece of music you listen to and/or play.

2. A narrative that reflects a defining moment in your life, focusing on a recent experience or event

3. A response to a single, specific passage or scene from *Frankenstein* or *Streetcar* that shows how a particular setting--cultural, physical, or geographical--shapes a character or an aspect of the plot.

4. Using either *Frankenstein* or *Streetcar*, write about one of the minor characters and how they relate to the main character or aid in developing the plot and theme of the work.

5. Compare a character from one of the required summer reading assignments with another fictional character from a literary work or film of your choice.

Your entries will have to be typed and compiled in a folder. If you are submitting your work electronically, please collect the separate entries into a single document. Please have a heading on the first page. Record the date of each entry. Give each entry a title that reflects or identifies the topic. Each entry should be 400-500 words. Entries should be typed, size 12, Times New Roman font, double spaced.

Since you have all summer to complete the readings and the journal entries, no late work will be accepted. Be prepared to submit your writing on the first full day of class.

You will receive points for this assignment; therefore, be sure to edit carefully for mechanics, style, grammar, etc. We will use the following checklist as a means of providing you with feedback as to the areas in which your writing will need to improve:

CONTENT: achieves a balance between subjectivity and objectivity, and demonstrates critical thinking and analysis that goes beyond the self-evident.

STYLE: demonstrates clarity and directness in writing, appropriate use of language, smoothness in sentence structure and variety in syntax.

CREATIVITY/ORIGINALITY: illustrates verbal skill in the use of imaginative language, includes vivid and specific detail, and effectively handles tone and mood.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in September when our spirits will, like Tennyson's Ulysses, be "yearning in desire/To follow knowledge like a sinking star,/Beyond the utmost bounds of human thought."

Sincerely,

Mr. Gillespie & Mr. Henry