

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading 2019

Welcome to AP Lang! As teachers of advanced English students, we expect you to read actively over the summer months. Developing skills in reading/analysis is absolutely imperative to your success in our classrooms, on the AP test in May, and throughout your life. Start early, and try to digest this assignment slowly, as a rushed reading will result in poor comprehension.

Reading List (completed and annotated by first day of school):

1. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
ISBN-13: 978-0743273565 ISBN-10: 0743273567

Book List (purchased by first day of school) – This is *not required reading for summer*, but we will use these texts during the year.

1. McGraw-Hill's *5 Steps to a 5: AP English Language 2019*
by Barbara L. Murphy and Estelle Rankin. (Amazon usually has the best price.)
ISBN-10: 1260122603 ISBN-13: 978-1260122602
2. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
ISBN-13: 978-0486264783 ISBN-10: 0486264785

OFFICIAL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT (due on first day of school):

1. While reading the novel, focus on the usual literary elements: plot, characters, theme, tone, structure, and setting (Be sure to note individual places: East Egg, West Egg, Midwest, New York, Valley of Ashes. What do we learn from each of these?) Furthermore, pay attention to Fitzgerald's writing style. What makes his style unique? Note his imagery and diction, especially. What do you learn from these? How do these elements advance his purpose in the novel? Select five quotations from the text that you feel are defining in some way (of character, theme, tone, etc.) What are the symbols/motifs in the text? ***
2. ANNOTATE – Use the assignment above and the following questions for the basis of your annotations. To be clear, the only "writing" you are doing for summer work is in the form of your annotations. That said, do those well.
 - A. Note how color is used throughout the novel. Pinpoint a few specific colors within the text and explain how they serve the narrative.
 - B. How does Fitzgerald use weather? Cite several places within the novel where weather is significant. What is the effect?
 - C. Is the titular character really "great"? Why does Fitzgerald choose this title? How does it frame your reading?
 - D. Fitzgerald, a master of characterization, highlights minor characters that serve a much larger purpose than most readers originally perceive. What is the function of Wolfsheim? Owl Eyes? Klipspringer?
 - E. The novel famously starts with Nick recalling his father's advice about reserving judgment and life advantages. Does Nick reserve judgment? How does Nick's narration affect your reading? What are the advantages/disadvantages of being able to experience this world only through Nick? Is Nick a reliable narrator?

F. Nick postulates, "There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams--not through her own fault but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion" (Fitzgerald 101). What does this mean? Is Gatsby a monomaniac? (You may have to look this term up.)

G. One of the novel's emblematic images occurs when Daisy collapses and sobs into Gatsby's shirts. What is the significance of this moment? Note one other image that you consider particularly important to the novel.

H. Fitzgerald ends the novel with lush descriptions of the Dutch first arriving in the Americas. Why does he conclude his novel with the image of a boat? How is *Gatsby* (and its characters, events, setting, etc) a microcosm for America?

3. Read the introductory material of *5 Steps to a 5*. Scan the book, and preview the AP test's format. Because many of you have never taken an AP exam, you will have questions. Jot them down in your book, and we will address them within the first few days of school.

4. Register for turnitin.com.

<u>MRS. ERICKSON'S CLASSES:</u>		<u>MR. HACKNEY'S CLASSES:</u>	
Class ID: 21114633	Enrollment Key: 2AAPLANG	Class ID: 21209619	Enrollment Key: 2BAPLANG
Class ID: 21114666	Enrollment Key: 3AAPLANG	Class ID: 21209638	Enrollment Key: 3BAPLANG
Class ID: 21114697	Enrollment Key: 4AAPLANG		
Class ID: 21114715	Enrollment Key: 1BAPLANG		

5. Enroll in Google Classroom:

<u>MRS. ERICKSON'S CLASSES:</u>		<u>MR. HACKNEY'S CLASSES:</u>	
AP Lang (2019-2020) 2A	Class Code: ayhwyo	AP Lang (2019-2020) 2B	Class Code: mshc65
AP Lang (2019-2020) 3A	Class Code: um877q	AP Lang (2019-2020) 3B	Class Code: 194ceg6
AP Lang (2019-2020) 4A	Class Code: s5o474		
AP Lang (2019-2020) 1B	Class Code: gimrslj		

***Let us remind you that Cliff's Notes, Barron's Notes, Sparknotes, Shmoop, etc. are study guides, NOT substitutes for reading the literary piece. Using these sources as such is unacceptable.

Please know that it is our job to challenge you and help you grow. We expect your best effort. Throughout the course, you **will** experience stress and challenges, but ***we are here to help***. We look forward to meeting all of you in August! Happy reading!

~Mr. Hackney & Mrs. Erickson