

To: juniors who will be taking AP English Literature IV

Re: summer and fall reading requirements

The AP Literature English IV team would like to congratulate you on the completion of your junior year and to commend your decision to continue in the Advanced Placement program. We know you will find your final year of English exciting, rewarding, and challenging. The course covers both world and British literature, from the ancient Greeks to the most contemporary writers. We strongly support the College Board's philosophy that reading in an Advanced Placement course should be both wide and deep.

The AP English program at Plano East requires summer reading. One of the essays for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Exam you will take next May will ask you to discuss a work of literary merit. Although the College Board does not require specific works, the more a student has read will correlate with the success he or she will have on the AP Literature and Composition exam.

This summer you will read *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. *East of Eden* begins in 1862 and covers three generations and 56 years, ending in Salinas, California, in 1918. A reincarnation of the Genesis stories, the novel tells the story of two families – one more successful than the other. The tale of these families and their interactions with each other will be reflected in works used in the AP IV curriculum all year. You will need to bring an annotated copy of this text to class by August 31. It is suggested that you create an AP review card for the novel once you have completed the reading.

Below is a list of major works you will need for the fall semester as they are not included in your textbook. We work with Barnes and Noble on 15th Street to assure that they are available to students throughout the semester, but they may be purchased at other bookstores or from internet suppliers such as Amazon.com. There may also be opportunities to purchase books in class although this is not definitive.

Oedipus by Sophocles, translated by Paul Roche
The Aeneid by Virgil, translated by Robert Fitzgerald
The Inferno by Dante, translated by John Ciardi
Hamlet by William Shakespeare (any edition)

Your choice of **one** of the following (outside reading for fall):

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Light in August by William Faulkner
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Jude the Obscure, by Thomas Hardy
A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison

Literature on the Advanced Placement level requires considerable maturity. It is our hope that you will appreciate the textual richness of each work and that you will find them thought-provoking. The selections are challenging reading and have been chosen in order to strengthen your language and analytical skills throughout the AP Literature course as you prepare for the AP exam. We think you will learn from and enjoy these selections.

Please do not hesitate to contact kim.gilstrap@pisd.edu if you have any questions regarding AP Literature English IV.

Enjoy your reading!

Sincerely,

The AP Literature English IV Team

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