



## Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Summer Assignment 2010

\*Instructor: Carol Creamer / Room # 115

### ❖ Welcome to A.P. English Literature!

❖ We're going to have FUN!!! (Of course, we also have to read every book ever written, tee hee hee.)

• It is important to remember that the coursework for AP English is done at the college level. As such, the readings will include mature subject matter, themes, and language. It is expected that the student will maintain a mature approach to his or her studies, thereby garnering the greatest benefits from these superior works of literature which elegantly and eloquently explore the depths and heights of the human condition. **A sophisticated level of scholarship is desired and students should be self-motivated and independent in their quest for literary awareness.**

• A comprehensive list of literary terms, philosophies, and rhetorical devices will be provided at the beginning of the year. Every student should make every effort to commit these ideas to memory and retain the list for further use. \*Our standard texts are Perrine's *Literature* and the Kenndy-Gioia edition of *AP Literature*.

• I need scarcely mention that plagiarism cannot and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. **Plagiarism is an academic CRIME!** Please remember that plagiarism is not limited to verbatim theft of another's language and / or ideas and research, but also includes faulty or no documentation. Results of plagiarism are disastrous and will incur a failing grade for the assignment, plus disciplinary actions by the administration of North Augusta High School.

• MLA style is the required documentation format for this class.

❖ I look forward to meeting all of you and to working with you over the next year. I anticipate a productive learning experience and I sincerely hope that you will enjoy the class.

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❖ Listed below are the assignments for which you are responsible over the summer:

➤ **You will be required to read two novels over the summer.**

➤ The attached sheet has the book list for summer reading. While there are two novels to read, there are three choices, each consisting of a long and a short text.



- IN ADDITION TO your reading, you will also need to complete several text-based assignments including comprehensive novel journals and essays. The related work is due on the first day of class in August. I will expect you to be prepared for a detailed discussion of the work as soon as the year begins. Tests will be scheduled within the first month of school.



➤ **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- ✓ You will keep a detailed **expository journal** *according to my directions* on each text. \*I should not need to indicate to you that I require a scholarly approach in all your writing samples. It will be painfully obvious if you rely exclusively upon study guides, such as “Spark Notes,” etc. You may correctly surmise that I would frown at such academic indiscretions.
- ✓ Please compile a **brief biography** of *each author* at the beginning of your journals and place it before the Table of Contents. One or two pages is sufficient.
- ✓ Be prepared to take a **test** on the novels when school begins. You will also be asked to write at least one **essay** per novel.
- ✓ **I need to advise you that NOTHING from this class should EVER be thrown away. You will need all of your materials in order to study for the exams at the end of the year.**

➤ **JOURNAL DIRECTIONS:**

I would like for you to have a Table of Contents at the beginning of each journal so that I may find the different sections easily. Please also use dividers to indicate each section. If you would like to combine the two texts in the same notebook, please make sure that there is a complete separation, such as a full page divider. I don't mind at all if you use the same notebook and **I do ask that you not use those dreadful (and wasteful) plastic page protectors.**

As you read the novel I ask that you be aware of **character, structure, symbolism, and theme**. You will keep a journal with notations and analysis of each concept.

- ❖ Please divide your journal into five sections
  - Section 1: Keep a list of ALL **characters** and denote whether they are major or minor, static or dynamic. Write a description of each, including a thorough analysis.
  - Section 2: Examine the **structure** of the novel and determine if there is a typical beginning, middle, end pattern, or if there are variations. Is the plot truly character-driven? Does it follow a common principle of well-known literary masterpieces (i.e. the journey toward knowledge, self-discovery, etc.)? Is there an obvious turning point, or a series of climactic moments? What conflicts occur?
  - Section 3: Please list and examine any obvious **symbols**. Carefully examine each and write a thorough explanation. Use quotations from the text to support your explanations.



- Section 4: List the possible **themes** of the novel, major and minor, and analyze each. Include characters and symbols associated with themes.
- Section 5: Discuss any **philosophical concepts** you find in the novel, such as social class, gender roles, cosmic irony (irony of fate), etc. Do you find evidence of these ideas within the text? Be thorough in your analysis.



➤ **INFORMATION ON THE NOVEL TRADITIONS** [ for use with your journals]:

- The two works by Thomas Hardy derive from the Victorian Era and are concerned with the issues of class divisions, gender issues, and the human being's proper place in the natural world. There is a further emphasis on fate and/or cosmic irony in this novels.



- Flaubert's novel is one of the first works of Realism in European fiction. The protagonist is self-destructive and the author does not romanticize her downfall.



- "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a feminist reading of an unequal marriage, as if "Sleeping Beauty" were a morality tale.

- *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* delves into the dark reaches of human psychology and the power of the submerged *id*.



→ Please do not make the assumption that these assignments are not meaningful. I place a great deal of importance on how you complete the scheduled summer work. I will be taking a class myself at the College of Charleston, but I plan to call you and check on your progress at some point in July or early August. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

- ❖ You will receive a detailed syllabus at the beginning of the year. We will study a **minimum** of twelve novels, plus a number of poems, short stories, and non-fiction texts.

\*If you need assistance, I may be reached over the summer at #613-1732 for **serious inquiries**. I also frequently check my school e-mail: <ccreamer@aiken.k12.sc.us>.

❖ *Have a happy summer! I'll be in the garden!*



## Advanced Placement Literature Summer Reading List 2010:

\*Students will read two books this summer. There are three choices:

- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (Thomas Hardy) and *Daisy Miller* (Henry James)
- *Madame Bovary* (Gustave Flaubert) and "The Yellow Wallpaper" (Charlotte Perkins Gilman)
- *Far from the Madding Crowd* (Thomas Hardy) and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Robert Louis Stevenson)

### → Novel Descriptions:

- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*...Hardy's painful story focuses upon an innocent female protagonist who is stifled by the restrictions of Victorian society. Tess encounters social bias, greed, and ultimate destruction as she is manipulated by her own family and the cynical upper classes.
- *Daisy Miller*...the title character of this novella is a simple American girl who travels to Europe and encounters the hypocrisy of American expatriates who have absorbed the social pretensions of traditional European class divisions.
- *Madame Bovary*...Flaubert's masterpiece of Realism is the story of Emma Bovary, a bored and dissatisfied woman, who brings about her own ruin and that of her husband through her extravagance.
- "The Yellow Wallpaper" ... a short story depicting a woman's descent into madness as she is controlled by her husband and the social mores of the 1800's.
- *Far from the Madding Crowd*...Thomas Hardy's novel presents Bathsheba Everdene, a woman in conflict with the English countryside where she lives and where she faces the cruel irony of fate.
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*...a disturbing account of warring alter-egos, Stevenson's novella describes the struggle between good and evil as each side seeks dominance within the same individual.

\*As we have a limited number of books, I have elected to use existing copies so that you will not have to make any purchases.

\*You are being asked to read TWO WORKS over the summer and to keep a journal on EACH. Books may not be substituted. You **must** read the corresponding works.

\*At some point during the year, **all** students will read each book on the summer list. Don't worry, I won't leave you out!

\*You must sign out the books and return them at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year in August.