



Academic Magnet High School

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Reading/Writing Assignments -- Summer 2022

Welcome to AP English Literature! You have several assignments to work on this summer in preparation for our coursework. Read the instructions on this paper carefully. We have chosen these assignments to get you excited about the reading we will do throughout the year and to provide a baseline for the skills you will hone in this class. Be prepared. Enjoy!

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Assignment 1: Purchase 2 books

1. **Purchase** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster – **2014 edition**.
2. **Purchase** *Counting Descent* by Clint Smith.

You may purchase used copies from Amazon. You may also check with graduating seniors who may wish to donate their copies. Finally, Mr. K's Books often carries these titles. Regardless, you need a physical copy of these books (no electronic copies accepted).

Assignment 2: Choice Novel: Read & Complete Significant Words Assignment

1. **Choose one of the novels listed below. Read** it in its entirety and be prepared to discuss and write about the novel during the first days of class. You should **develop your own system of annotation**, either by taking notes, using color coded comments, Post-It Notes, etc. You will not be assessed on your annotations, but thoughtful annotations will help you with the first assignments of the year.
2. **Significant Words:** Choose **ten important words** from your book that the reader should pay close attention to and understand while reading. Your choices should come from multiple chapters throughout the novel and be words of special importance in the story.
 - a. Type your list of words and include the chapter and page number where you find them.
 - b. Include the definition(s).
 - c. We will use your list of words on the first day of school. You will need a **printed copy** of your words on the first day of class.
 - d. You do not need to list the page number for every instance your word appears in the novel. Choose the BEST instance only.

Due: first day of school

Book Selection List

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Assignment 3: Poetry Collection: Read & annotate one of the poetry collections listed below. Purchase the collection (you must have a physical copy; no electronic versions accepted) and **read** it in its entirety. Then, **annotate** the collection for patterns and themes. Your annotations will not be graded, but you will use your annotations for assignments on the first day of school (and more). You will not be able to complete our in class assignments without a thorough understanding of the collection as a whole. You should aim to read & annotate approximately 5 poems at a time. Don't save this assignment for the last minute, as you will NOT be able to successfully read and process an entire book of poetry in 2-3 nights.

→ **Jericho Brown, *The Tradition* - Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

"Beauty abounds in Jericho Brown's daring new poetry collection, despite and inside of the evil that pollutes the everyday. *The Tradition* questions why and how we've become accustomed to terror: in the bedroom, the classroom, the workplace, and the movie theater. From mass shootings to rape to the murder of unarmed people by police, Brown interrupts complacency by locating each emergency in the garden of the body, where living things grow and wither—or survive. In the urgency born of real danger, Brown's work is at its most innovative. His invention of the duplex—a combination of the sonnet, the ghazal, and the blues—is an all-out exhibition of formal skill, and his lyrics move through elegy and memory with a breathless cadence. Jericho Brown is a poet of eros: here he wields this power as never before, touching the very heart of our cultural crisis."

→ **Mary Oliver, *Felicity***

"Mary Oliver, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, celebrates love in her new collection of poems. "If I have any secret stash of poems, anywhere, it might be about love, not anger," Mary Oliver once said in an interview. Finally, in her stunning new collection, *Felicity*, we can immerse ourselves in Oliver's love poems. Here, great happiness abounds. Our most delicate chronicler of physical landscape, Oliver has described her work as loving the world. With *Felicity* she examines what it means to love another person. She opens our eyes again to the territory within our own hearts; to the wild and to the quiet. In these poems, she describes—with joy—the strangeness and wonder of human connection."

→ **Tracy K. Smith, *Life on Mars***

"With allusions to David Bowie and interplanetary travel, *Life on Mars* imagines a soundtrack for the universe to accompany the discoveries, failures, and oddities of human existence. In these brilliant new poems, Tracy K. Smith imagines a sci-fi future sucked clean of any real dangers, contemplates the dark matter that keeps people both close and distant, and revisits the kitschy concepts like "love" and "illness" now relegated to the Museum of Obsolescence. These reveal the realities of life lived here, on the ground, where a daughter is imprisoned in the basement by her own father, where celebrities and pop stars walk among us, and where the poet herself loses her father, one of the engineers who worked on the Hubble Telescope. With this remarkable third collection, Smith establishes herself as among the best poets of her generation."

→ **José Olivarez, *Citizen Illegal***

In this stunning debut, poet José Olivarez explores the stories, contradictions, joys, and sorrows that embody life in the spaces between Mexico and America. He paints vivid portraits of good kids, bad kids, families clinging to hope, life after the steel mills, gentrifying barrios, and everything in between. Drawing on the rich traditions of Latinx and Chicago writers like Sandra Cisneros and Gwendolyn Brooks, Olivarez creates a home out of life in the in-between. Combining wry humor with potent emotional force, Olivarez takes on complex issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and immigration using an everyday language that invites the reader in. Olivarez has a unique voice that makes him a poet to watch.

→ **Billy Collins, *The Trouble with Poetry And Other Poems***

"Collins's poems are filled with mischief, humor, and irony...Through simple language, Collins shows that good poetry doesn't have to be obscure or incomprehensible. Gorgeous, funny, and deeply empathetic, Billy Collins's poetry is a window through which we see our lives as if for the first time."

Here are some elements that may seem worthy of annotation, but note that not all will apply to every poem in your collection:

- What is the poem about?
- Who is the speaker? Is it a persona?
- Define unknown words.
- Unique or surprising images – what do they convey to you?
- Music – Meaningful poems are pleasing to the ear. Does the poem use specific sound elements (alliteration, rhyme scheme, meter, etc)? What is the effect of these elements?
- Emotion – Meaningful poems invite or evoke an emotional response. Does the poem have a distinct tone or mood? Do these change or stay the same as the poem progresses?
- Imagery – Meaningful poems create word pictures in the reader's mind. Does the poem contain interesting metaphors, symbols, personification?
- Form – Meaningful poems have a form that complements the poem's intentions. The ordering of the lines of verse adds significantly to the poem's effect and meaning, as does the white space between the stanzas and words, the punctuation that is used (or not used), and even the way the poem is placed on the page. Consider end-stopped vs enjambed lines, caesura, punctuation, couplets, tercets, prose, other?
- What else? Figurative language, word play, title significance, POV, shift

Due: First day of school

On the first day of class, bring the following:

- Annotated poetry collection
- Your choice novel & printed copy of your Significant Words (include an MLA header)
- How to Read Literature Like a Professor & Counting Descent*