

**AP Literature and Composition – Mrs. Gardner
2018 Summer Assignment**

Congratulations on your decision to take AP Literature and Composition. In this rigorous course, you will deepen your study of complex literature from various time periods and genres and strengthen your analytical writing skills in preparation for college and for the AP exam.

In order to keep your skills sharp over the summer and to continue to build the repertoire of novels you intellectually “own” for the AP Exam in May, please have the required portion of the following assignment completed when school begins in August. The first week of school, we will have an in-class essay based on this assignment so that I can assess your writing and literary analysis skills.

REQUIRED

Read and prepare two novels of literary merit by the same author. One should be a work you have studied in school; the other should be a work you are studying on your own. A wise reader will keep notes on both texts in terms of themes, setting elements, characterization, important symbols, key quotes, etc. **Some examples of possible pairings are listed below. This is by no means an exhaustive list.**

In School

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Old Man and the Sea by E. Hemingway
The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien

On Your Own

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Franny and Zooey by J. D. Salinger
This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck
East of Eden by John Steinbeck
The Sun Also Rises by E. Hemingway
In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O’Brien

RECOMMENDED

Since literature often makes use of allusion to mythology and to the Bible, I highly recommend that you familiarize yourself with key figures and stories from Greek and Roman mythology and from the Bible. There are many excellent resources to assist you in this process. Certainly Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* remains a strong choice as a resource to own.

Read and write as often as you can. Summer is a wonderful time to read and write for personal enjoyment. **Do so.**