

**AP Literature and Composition – Mrs. Gardner
2019 Summer Assignment**

Congratulations on your decision to take AP Literature and Composition (like you had any choice, right??). 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, you will write 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 study on your own this summer. 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 Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
Kite Runner by Hosseini
Siddhartha by Herman Hesse

On Your Own

This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
Crome Yellow by Aldous Huxley
King Lear by Shakespeare
Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee
The Castle by Franz Kafka
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Hosseini
Steppenwolf by Herman Hesse

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. If you are not familiar with stories from the Bible, a children’s Bible is a fairly quick study to learn the basics.

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