

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2020-21

Welcome to AP English Literature & Composition. In order to get ready for the new school year, you will be reading two great pieces of literature.

You must select TWO (2) of the following novels to read (and enjoy!). Annotate and highlight as needed for character, plot, theme, any notable narrative style, etc. Within the first two weeks of school, you will have two graded assignments: essay and round table discussion. (*All book descriptions provided by Amazon.com)

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama
The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle
Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD BY ZORA NEALE HURSTON

“A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don’t know how to live properly.” - Zadie Smith

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature

THE SAMURAI’S GARDEN BY GAIL TSUKIYAMA

The daughter of a Chinese mother and a Japanese father, Tsukiyama uses the Japanese invasion of China during the late 1930s as a somber backdrop for her unusual story about a 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen who is sent to his family’s summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis. Here he is cared for by Matsu, a reticent housekeeper and a master gardener. Over the course of a remarkable year, Stephen learns Matsu’s secret and gains not only physical strength, but also profound spiritual insight. Matsu is a samurai of the soul, a man devoted to doing good and finding beauty in a cruel and arbitrary world, and Stephen is a noble student, learning to appreciate Matsu’s generous and nurturing way of life.

THE TORTILLA CURTAIN BY T.C. BOYLE

Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. And from the moment a freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact,

these four and their opposing worlds gradually intersect in what becomes a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.

KITE RUNNER BY KHALED HOSSEINI

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic

A FAREWELL TO ARMS BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The classic novel of love during wartime.

Written when Ernest Hemingway was thirty years old and lauded as the best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Set against the looming horrors of the battlefield—wary, demoralized men marching in the rain during the German attack on Caporetto; the profound struggle between loyalty and desertion—this gripping, semiautobiographical work captures the harsh realities of war and the pain of lovers caught in its inexorable sweep.

We know you will enjoy at least one, if not more, of these engaging and interesting works. Enjoy! See you in the fall.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick

Mr. Stibolt

Mr. Garcia