

Destrehan High School
AP English Summer 2023-24 Reading List (non-Gifted Classes)

Research indicates that the single most effective way to improve reading, writing, and vocabulary is through reading practice. Moreover, colleges and universities expect entering freshmen to have had a broad reading experience in high school. Therefore, the Honors/AP Program in English provides an opportunity for students to be challenged by reading the following works.

Students in AP English III and IV will be tested on summer reading on the first day of class. The test will cover characters, settings, and events, and will also test students' understanding of literary and thematic elements as they relate to the books. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency in the material will be given a supplementary assignment.

Please note that students in Gifted sections of AP English III and IV will have separate assignments; the ones listed below do not apply to those classes.

Reading for AP English III (the title will be tested in the first quarter)

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Your assignment is simply to read the book, and understand it as best you can. Why did he write this? What is his purpose? You are encouraged to do additional research and reading about the book. **There is no summer writing assignment; students will be tested during the first week of class on their understanding of the book.**

Reading for AP English IV (titles will be tested in the first quarter)

The Turn of the Screw by Henry James

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

As students read, they should be aware of the following, and are encouraged to do additional reading/research:

Characters: Identify and (briefly) describe major characters.

Settings: Identify the locations in the book, and their importance.

Conflicts: What are the protagonists' goals, and what difficulties do they face in resolving them? Conflicts may be internal (person vs. self) or external (vs. person or nature).

Events: What major events occur in the book? What is their significance?

Literary devices: Consider uses of narrative (point of view, the work's structure) or figurative language (symbols, comparisons). Identify them and their significance.

Theme: What message or insight is the author trying to share? This is not just the subject of the story, and it is more complex than a moral or cliché'.

There is no summer writing assignment; students will be tested during the first two weeks of class on their understanding of the works.

The following list is a catalog of titles that have frequently appeared on the AP English: Literature & Composition exam. AP English IV students are encouraged to read works from this list to increase their breadth of literary experience.

APLIT Suggested Works

1984

Absalom, Absalom!

Alentejo Blue

All My Sons

All the King's Men

The Amazing

Adventures of Kavalier

& Clay

Anna Karenina

Arcadia

As I Lay Dying

Beloved

The Blind Assassin

The Bluest Eye

The Bonesetter's

Daughter

Brave New World

Brideshead Revisited

The Brief Wondrous

Life of Oscar Wao

Broken for You

The Brothers

Karamazov

Candide

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Catch-22

The Catcher in the Rye

Cat's Eye

The Color Purple

The Comedy of Errors

The Country Wife

Crime and Punishment

Death of a Salesman

The Dew Breaker

Digging to America

A Doll House

Don Quixote

East of Eden

Emma

Empire Falls

Equus

Erewhon

Extremely Loud and

Incredibly Close

Fences

A Gathering of Old Men

A Gesture Life

The Glass Menagerie

The Grapes of Wrath

Great Expectations

Gulliver's Travels

A Handful of Dust

The Handmaid's Tale

The Homecoming

The House of Mirth

Housekeeping

The Importance of

Being Earnest

In the Time of the

Butterflies

The Inheritance of Loss

Invisible Man

Jasmine

Jane Eyre

Just Above My Head

Life of Pi

Light in August

Lord Jim

King Lear

The Kite Runner

Lysistrata

Macbeth

Mama Day

Man and Superman

Midnight's Children

A Midsummer Night's

Dream

The Mill on the Floss

Miss Lonelyhearts

Moby-Dick

Moll Flanders

The Namesake

Native Son

Noah's Compass

On Beauty

One Flew Over the

Cuckoo's Nest

One Hundred Years of

Solitude

Orlando

Pale Fire

The Piano Lesson

The Pilgrim's Progress

The Plague

The Poisonwood Bible

The Portrait of a Lady

A Portrait of the Artist

as a Young Man

A Prayer for Owen

Meany

The Prime of Miss Jean

Brodie

Pride and Prejudice

Purple Hibiscus

Pygmalion

Rasselas

Reservation Blues

Rhinoceros

The Road

Rosencrantz and

Guilденstern Are Dead

The Scarlet Letter

Sent for You Yesterday

Siddhartha

Shalimar the Clown

Sister of My Heart

Snow Flower and the

Secret Fan

Song of Solomon

Sophie's Choice

The Sound and the Fury

The Story of Edgar

Sawtelle

A Streetcar Named

Desire

Sula

A Tale of Two Cities

The Taming of the

Shrew

Tartuffe

The Tempest

Their Eyes Were

Watching God

A Thousand Acres

A Thousand Splendid

Suns

Three Sisters

To the Lighthouse

Tom Jones

Tracks

Twelfth Night

Typical American

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Volpone

Waiting for Godot

White Noise

Who's Afraid of

Virginia Woolf?

Wise Blood

The Women of Brewster

Place

The World According to

Garp

Wuthering Heights

A Yellow Raft in Blue

Water