

## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2019

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**Welcome!** Congratulations on being enrolled as a student in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition; I am looking forward to taking a fun and challenging journey with you that will help you to become a more thoughtful reader and writer. I have chosen two works for you to read over the summer. Please do so thoroughly and closely. As you already know, SparkNotes and other resources will NOT prepare you for the intensive work required for each piece of literature. Plus, you miss the brilliant voices of the authors. I am assuming you are taking this class because you like to read, and we all know summaries are not great literature. This class comes with high expectations as it is considered a college-level course. Please approach the challenge with a strong attitude, including focus and maturity. And, on a side note, I am really looking forward to getting to know each of you! Have a great summer and enjoy reading!!! ☺ \*\*Oh, and, one more thing...please sign up for the class Remind101 ASAP: **text @msgiefer to 81010.**

And now, I'd like to introduce you to the texts...

To complete your reading, you will need to obtain copies of the two books listed below. If you wish, you may purchase these at Holly's Book Rack at a discounted price:

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (\*bring books to class on day one)

### General Guidelines:

- Do not procrastinate! That will not result in the best grade! Email or call if you have any questions. If you email me, please send a text to let me know. **[giefer.sally@lexington.k12.oh.us](mailto:giefer.sally@lexington.k12.oh.us)** **my cell: (419) 564-9314**

### Assignment:

- **Read/Enjoy** *A Prayer for Owen Meany* – see attached for suggestions on annotating the text. I will NOT be grading your annotations, but I encourage you to write in your books to help you remember key elements – plot, literary devices, connections to self, world, texts – specifically *How to Read*. Suggestions are on the back of this sheet.
- **Read/Enjoy/Post-In Notes** *How to Read Literature* **Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26.** This text is one you can pick up and put down, so you can work through it slowly. I want you to write key points at chapter beginnings on a single Post-It Note; see example provided. Post-It Notes are due day one; keep in book.
- We will have a reading quiz over *Prayer for Owen Meany* the second day of school, and we will be writing and presenting ideas about the novel during the first couple of weeks of school. Do not just think on the surface level → go deeper.

### Bring every day next year:

- a positive attitude
- a willingness to be an active learner → Participate and Listen!! Ask Questions!! Be Engaged!!

## HOW TO ANNOTATE:

Annotating does not simply mean underlining some words – it is *analyzing* passages; it demonstrates critical thinking. When marking your book, it is helpful to *take notes* (i.e. circle a new character's name, put a square around a new setting (both time and place, including narrator's age, for example). But doing this is *taking notes*, not *annotating*. Annotations must go deeper; that is, under the surface level – do not just mark factual information. Your annotations should show the importance of the passage; do not just say “weird” or “hmm...” or “haha.” It's great to have these reactions as you read works of literary merit, but train your brain to look for things that may be harder to see.

Over-marking your text is counter-productive. Not every single detail is crucial to the text. Using a highlighter is the least active form of annotating because you are not interacting with the text.

Consider the author's style, notice the tone/mood of the passage. Ask, *why* does the author use a specific technique? If a scene later in the book parallels an earlier one, take note – that is purposeful.

Look for symbols, themes, motifs, etc.

**Symbolism** is often used in the repetition of a subject. For example, in *Of Mice and Men*, Lennie and George constantly refer to owning their own farm, which symbolizes foolish dreams and false hopes. Notice things that are mentioned often and may seem irrelevant – most of the time, they aren't.

**Theme** is the underlying meaning of the work and is an important concept in an advanced course. Some important themes are *friendship, divine intervention, father/son relationships*. Consider following these ideas throughout *A Prayer for Owen Meany*; even still, follow your own theme(s).

**Motifs** are dominant ideas in literary works. One example in the text is *armlessness*. Find more.

You may use sticky notes for annotations, or you can write directly in the book. Please do not write annotations on separate paper. I like write key elements at the beginning of each chapter and even at the top of some pages (i.e. major events, things I want to remember, etc.) for quick reference. I circle new names and settings (i.e. character's age), but you can use your own method. Annotating tips can be found here:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/handouts/the-writing-process-1/invention/Annotating-a-Text/>

**Plagiarism Pledge** – By signing this paper, you pledge not to plagiarize and to understand the consequences if you do so.

I understand that presenting someone else’s work/ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as my own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism. According to the Lexington High School handbook (excerpt below), cheating results in a zero on the assignment. To avoid plagiarism altogether, I will do my own work.

### **What is Plagiarism?**

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

\* Document provided by Turnitin.com and Research Resources.

The following policy can be found in of the Board-adopted Lexington High School Student Handbook:

### **CHEATING**

Encouraging and fostering high regard for honesty and integrity is an integral part of our educational preparation. Therefore, the administration, faculty, and staff will NOT condone or tolerate any form of cheating or dishonesty which may include but is not limited to copying/providing homework, providing test/quiz information/answers/essays, use of “cheat sheets,” and use of dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means to obtain or attempt to attain credit for academic work.

**FIRST CHEATING OFFENSE** - The student will receive zero points/no credit for the assignment, test, project, etc. involved; the teacher will notify the dean of students of the incident; and the teacher will talk with the student’s parents about the incident.

**SECOND CHEATING OFFENSE REPORTED TO THE OFFICE** - The student will face the same consequences as the first offense; the student will be referred to the dean of students and subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension.

Subsequent offenses will result in disciplinary action as per the sequence of suspendable offenses found in the handbook.

Student Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment: Personal Narrative Essay:**

Choose ONE of the following quotes to use as a title for your personal narrative piece. This should serve as a theme or as inspiration. You will write something about YOU; I'd like to get to know you a bit before the school year begins.

**This is due 8/5/2019.**

The particulars:

- Since this is a personal narrative, you may use first person; avoid second person.
  - Note the purpose of the essay. You will not analyze/explain the quote. You are telling me a story.
  - Keep the essay between 500 and 600 words. Write the word count on the bottom of the page. Please, double-space.
1. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.  
~Atticus Finch
  2. "I learned it from you," I told him. ~John Wheelwright
  3. The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning. ~Ivy Baker Priest
  4. The only courage you ever need is the courage to live the life you want. ~Oprah Winfrey
  5. There is no such thing as bragging. You're either lying or telling the truth. ~Al Oliver
  6. Be careful how you interpret the world: it is like that. ~Erich Heller
  7. Flowers often grow more beautifully on dung-hills than in gardens that look beautifully kept.  
~Saint Francis de Sales
  8. You are here not to shrink down to less, but to blossom into more of who you really are.  
~Oprah Winfrey
  9. It is not enough for a man to know how to ride; he must know how to fall. ~Mexican Proverb
  10. If you see the world in black and white, you're missing important grey matter. ~Jack Fyock
  11. We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are. ~Anais Nin
  12. Expectant of greater things,  
We try climbing –  
Higher  
And higher;  
An effort that costs us much,  
Leaving us short of breath  
To find only  
The ground below is much prettier. ~Philip Pulfrey

Have fun with this one. I will be looking for your "voice." Make it sincere and insightful. Avoid clichés. Your essay should be revealing and should either tell a story throughout or include several anecdotes to illustrate your point. Please note the word count at the bottom of your paper. Thank you, kindly. ☺