

AP English Language and Composition
Mrs. Dzak
Summer Reading 2017

Welcome to AP Lang! As a teacher of advanced English students, I expect you to read actively over the summer months. Developing skills in reading/analysis is absolutely imperative to your success in my classroom, on the AP test in May, and throughout your academic career. Start early, and try to digest these pieces slowly, as a rushed reading will result in poor comprehension.

Reading List (completed and annotated by first day of school):

1. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
ISBN-10: 0743273567
ISBN-13: 978-0743273565
2. “It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow” from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster (HANDOUT)

Book List (purchased by first day of school) – This is *not required reading for summer*, but we will use these texts during 1st semester.

1. McGraw-Hill’s *5 Steps to a 5: AP English Language 2018*, 9th Edition
by Barbara L. Murphy and Estelle Rankin. (Amazon usually has the best price.)
ISBN-13: 978-1259862311
ISBN-10: 1259586529
2. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
ISBN-10: 0486264785 **ISBN-13:** 978-0486264783

Suggested Books – We WILL NOT use these in class, but they are recommended for your development as a literature student.

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster
2. Princeton Review’s *Cracking the AP English Language & Composition Exam*.

Supply List (ready by first day of school)

1. three-ring binder (2-3 inches) with dividers for class work
(loose-leaf paper, 1 – Daily Journal/Notes, 2- Writing, 3 – SAT/Grammar, 4 – Literature,
5 – Research/Quote Integration, 6 – AP info/prompts)
2. three-ring binder (1-2 inches) for end-of-year portfolio with dividers
3. two-pocket folder
4. post-it notes for annotations in any school-owned books
5. spiral notebook (college ruled)
6. loose-leaf paper (college ruled)
7. pens (blue/black and **another colored ink for grading/annotating**) and pencils

You should be prepared with these every day! (Some things we will store in the classroom.)

OFFICIAL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT (due on first day of school):

1. Read and annotate “It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow” by Thomas C. Foster
2. Before you read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, do some general research about the United States during the 1920’s – culture, economy, gender roles, government/laws, etc. Research the author. Keep track of sources, as you will use them later.
3. While reading the novel, focus on the usual literary elements: plot, characters, theme, tone, structure, and setting (In addition to the overall setting, note individual places: East Egg, West Egg, Midwest, New York, Valley of Ashes. What do we learn from each of these?) In addition, pay attention to Fitzgerald’s writing style. What makes his style unique? Note his imagery and diction, especially. What do you learn from these? How do these elements advance his purpose in the novel? Select five quotations from the text that you feel are defining in some way (of character, theme, tone, etc.) What are the symbols/motifs in the text? ***
4. ANNOTATE – Use the questions above for the basis of your annotations.
5. View the latest film version of *The Great Gatsby* (dir. Baz Luhrmann). **Then, write an essay (about 2 pages) comparing and contrasting the movie and the novel. Although the movie is an excellent adaptation, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES.** I would suggest that you read the novel before viewing the movie. If you have already seen the film, I would read the novel, and then view the movie again. All testing will be over the novel, not the film. Submit to turnitin.com, and print a copy to submit to me with your receipt stapled to the back. **All written assignments will be submitted in this fashion—no lates, no excuses, no exceptions.**
6. Review annotations. Then, type out your answers to the depth questions. Submit to turnitin.com, and print two copies with your receipt stapled to the back.
7. Read the introductory material of *5 Steps to a 5*. Scan the book, and preview the AP test’s format. Because many of you have never taken an AP exam, you will have questions. Jot them down in your book, and we will address them within the first few days of school.
8. Register for turnitin.com—required Class ID: 15378904 Enrollment Key: Dzak
9. Register for remind.com. Text @dzakap to 81010 to enroll in remind.com.
10. Read the syllabus carefully, and sign it. Have at least one parent/guardian sign as well.

***Let me remind you that Cliff’s Notes, Barron’s Notes, Sparknotes, Shmoop, etc. are study guides and NOT VALID RESEARCH SOURCES and NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR READING THE LITERARY PIECE. Using these sources as such is unacceptable.

Please know that it is my job to challenge you and help you grow. **I expect your best effort.** Throughout the course, you **will** experience stress and challenges, but *I am here to help.*
I look forward to meeting all of you in August! Happy reading!

Mrs. Dzak
Central campus, room 192
sdzak@mchs.net

NOTE: I do not check email over summer. Write down questions for the first day of class.