23 May 2019

Dear Advanced Placement Students for AP Literature and Composition:

Welcome to your first official year of AP English! You are officially moving into a COLLEGE ENGLISH class. This means on time work, college expectations of reading and writing, and higher rigor. As part of the official AP English program, you are required to prepare two summer reading novels. If you do not want to do your summer reading, or think you can just sparknote it, reconsider your enrollment in this class. All drops must occur before June 6.

**FOR Novel 1:**

1. Read one of the books listed below (not spark notes, not the movie, not the manga version.)
2. Complete the prompts on the *How to Read Literature like a Professor* handout. Be prepared to submit your document on Turnitin on the first day of class. You will need to pick up your Chromebook at open house or do this on your own computer. Use your existing Turnitin account. Simply register into the new class.
   1. Class name in Turnitin: AP English Literature 2019-2020
   2. Class ID: **21127873**
   3. Enrollment key: **aplit**
3. Plan to take a test on this book the first week of school. Bring the book with you day 1!

**FOR *HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR*:**

1. Read the book. I have provided you with a copy. You may also purchase one on Amazon. Make sure it is the revised edition!
2. Complete the chapter requirements according to the sheet I provided you.
3. Bring this book with you on the first day of class

**Failure to complete the summer reading assignments will result in zeroes for these assignments.**

ALL documents you need are on the AP English page on the school website.

To access our AP website log on to the school website

1. Choose schools from top banner, then Tomah High School
2. Choose Academics from left side list.
3. Choose English Department.
4. All documents you receive in the spring are also available here as downloadable documents.

Have questions on your summer reading? Then contact me through one of these methods!

1. Email me at my work address: [maryneve@tomah.education](mailto:maryneve@tomah.education). I check this every couple days all

summer.

2. Message me through Facebook (you don’t have to “friend” me to do this!) Mary Ortner Neve

3. Join our **Tomah High School AP English** Facebook page and post your question.

I am excited to see you this fall! We have so much cool stuff to learn and do! DO NOT BE AFRAID…

Mary Ortner Neve

maryneve@tomah.education (email with questions!!)

ps Don’t forget that the APT play money for *A Doll’s House* will be due the first week of school! Bring $14.00 cash or check made out to TASD! Spaces are limited! We will attend on September 20. We read this play during the school year.

1. Novel options (Choose 1):

***Angela’s Ashes* Frank McCourt** In this memoir Frank describes how his parents meet and marry in New York, then eventually move back to Ireland with their four sons during the height of the Great Depression. He characterizes his upbringing as a typical “miserable Irish Catholic childhood,” complete with a drunken father and a downtrodden, browbeaten mother. In detailed, heart-wrenching fashion, he relates his experiences growing up in Depression Era Ireland. Published 1996.

***Black Boy* by Richard Wright** an autobiography of Richard Wright's early life, examines Richard's tortured years in the Jim Crow South from 1912 to 1927. In each chapter, Richard relates painful and confusing memories that lead to a better understanding of the man a black, Southern, American writer who eventually emerges. Published 1945.

***The Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan** A sensitive, multi-generational story of mothers and daughters, cousins and aunties, intertwined with the stories of the mothers as young girls in China and the conflicts and similarities of the generations. Four immigrant Chinese women, Suyuan, An-Mei, Lindo and Ying Ying, survivors of their traumatic pasts, each relate their own stories in vivid detail, in the hope of teaching their American daughters to believe in themselves and achieve a better life in America. Having grown up in America, the daughters, Jing Mei, Rose, Waverly, and Lena, in turn relate their struggles to understand their mothers, and the cultural differences and divisions between them. Published1989.  
***Kaffir Boy* Mark Mathabane** The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa is Mark Mathabane wrote his first autobiography about life under the South African apartheid regime. Mark overcomes poverty and institutionalized racism to become the first black South African professional tennis player. Published 1986.

***Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini** The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also 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. Published 2003.

***A Lesson Before Dying* Ernest J Gaines** In a small Cajun community in 1940s Louisiana, a young black man is about to go to the electric chair for murder. A white shopkeeper had died during a robbery gone bad; though the young man on trial had not been armed and had not pulled the trigger, in that time and place, there could be no doubt of the verdict or the penalty. More than 75 years after the close of the Civil War, antebellum attitudes still prevail: African Americans go to the kitchen door when visiting whites and the two races are rigidly separated by custom and by law. Grant, trapped in a career he doesn't enjoy, eaten up by resentment at his station in life, and angered by the injustice he sees all around him, dreams of taking his girlfriend Vivian and leaving Louisiana forever. But when Jefferson is convicted and sentenced to die, his grandmother, Miss Emma, begs Grant for one last favor: to teach her grandson to die like a man. Published 1994.

***Life of Pi* Yann Martel** After deciding to sell their zoo in India and move to Canada, Santosh and Gita Patel board a freighter with their sons and a few remaining animals. Tragedy strikes when a terrible storm sinks the ship, leaving the Patels' teenage son, Pi (Suraj Sharma), as the only human survivor. However, Pi is not alone; a fearsome Bengal tiger has also found refuge aboard the lifeboat. As days turn into weeks and weeks drag into months, Pi and the tiger must learn to trust each other if both are to survive. Published 2001.

***Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe** One of Chinua Achebe's many achievements in his acclaimed first novel, *Things Fall Apart*, is his relentlessly unsentimental rendering of Nigerian tribal life before and after the coming of colonialism. First published in 1958, just two years before Nigeria declared independence from Great Britain, the book eschews the obvious temptation of depicting pre-colonial life as a kind of Eden. Instead, Achebe sketches a world in which violence, war, and suffering exist, but are balanced by a strong sense of tradition, ritual, and social coherence. His Ibo protagonist, Okonkwo, is a self-made man. The son of a charming ne'er-do-well, he has worked all his life to overcome his father's weakness and has arrived, finally, at great prosperity and even greater reputation among his fellows in the village of Umuofia. Okonkwo is a champion wrestler, a prosperous farmer, husband to three wives and father to several children. He is also a man who exhibits flaws well-known in Greek tragedy:

**\*No substitutions will be made. All books are available from the English Department.**

**\*Choose a book you can invest your time and effort into. You will be tested on this novel in the first week of school.**