

SUMMER READING COURSE LINK
ADVANCED PLACEMENT: ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION
GRADE 12

FOUR REQUIRED WORKS:

1. *Bible Selections – Old and New Testament - KJV*
(online at www.ridge414.com/summerreading)

2. *Awakening – Kate Chopin*

3. *A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving*

4. *The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini*

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSES:

Students are encouraged to annotate their texts or keep an appropriate literature log of their notes and analysis. These notes will prove beneficial for reference and review in September when students will complete in-class, AP-style “timed writing” assignments on the texts. Upon arrival on the first day of class, students will submit the following **two** essays:

1. A **‘process’ essay** on one of the six AP prompts listed below. The essay should not exceed 750 words (about two typed, double-spaced pages). The year notation before each topic indicates the year in which the question appeared as an open-ended question (#3) on the AP English Literature examination. Students should utilize MLA format, and indicate the “year” of the topic in their title.
2. A **college application essay** for at least one school you are considering. Please submit a copy of the application with topic and length requirements with the essay.

Process essay prompts (choose one of the six):

1966: An individual's struggle toward understanding and awareness is the traditional subject for the novelist. In an essay, apply this statement to one novel of literary merit. Organize your essay according to the following plan: 1) Compare the hero as we see him in an early scene with the hero as we see him in a scene near the end of the novel. 2) Describe the techniques that the author uses to reveal the new understanding and awareness that the hero has achieved.

1967: Frequently in novels, an important character violates the laws, the conventions, the rules of conduct of a society. In presenting such characters and actions, the author's purpose may be (1) to arouse our sympathy for the character who is violating the rules of society; (2) to divide our interest sharply between sympathy for the character and desire to support the principles of society; (3) to arouse our "satiric mirth" at the character who is violating the principles of society; and (4) to laugh with the character at the conventions that are being violated. Write a well-organized essay, illustrating in some detail two or more of these purposes.

1971: In retrospect, the reader often discovers that the first chapter of a novel introduces some of the major themes of the work. Write an essay about the first chapter of a novel in which you explain how the chapter functions to set forth major themes.

1973-- An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant closure has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty. In an essay, discuss the ending of a novel or play of acknowledged literary merit. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

1984: From a novel or play of literary merit, select an important character who is a villain. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character's villainy and show how it enhances the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

1987: Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary.