

A.P. English Literature: Summer Reading 2017

For your summer reading: *four* works (one is the all-school read). The novels cover the dominant 20th and 21st genres: stark realism, modernism, magical realism, mystery - and certainly social criticism as well. And although the settings span epochs, you will revisit the regrettably timeless universal of injustice all its guises: gender, as well as racial, cultural and economic. All of these works are available in both hard and soft cover, from your local library as well as bookstores, who I hope have preordered them. Call first to make certain they have copies on hand. Inexpensive pre loved editions are also available at Amazon.com.

1. **Schoology Discussion Board work and your written essay are due on the first day of class.** (See reverse side.)

2. And you will be tested on these novels most likely during the second week of school.

3. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** On **Thursday, Nov 9. in the evening**, we will convene at Kleinhans Music Hall to hear acclaimed Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison whose novel *Beloved* is assigned below. **Although attendance is mandatory**, this evening will be a rewarding one. Cost to you is \$5.00. (Nardin has generously offered to pay the remainder of the cost.)

Cleave, Chris. *Little Bee*. Published first in England by this British author, its original title was *The Other Hand*, certainly a far more effective one. As it was undeniably the favorite summer reading selection of this year's graduating Nardos, we decided to include once again.

Krueger, William Kent. *Ordinary Grace*. Although an award winning mystery, to only acclaim Krueger's work this narrowly is an injustice. With his exquisite prose evoking a clear sense of both time and place and with his carefully limned characters, fallible but decent people, his story begins when the family father, a minister of kindness and "grace," finds his integrity tested in a crucible of tragedy.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Based on true events: an escaped slave kills her beloved children rather than have them return to slavery. Morrison's epic is so powerful that it will enable you to reach into the very souls of these protagonists. Although the novel covers several genres, the most notable is a unique style, coined "magical realism," which fuses harsh reality with fantastical "magical" events. Also belonging to the genre of "modernism," the novel follows a fractured timeline with no transitions to warn us that we are switching to time past, past-past, or time present. Hard to follow at first, but if you stick with it, you will be rewarded beyond measure. Authors use a fractured time line to replicate the human mind.

*Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. In the 1950's Baltimore, a poor African-American woman visits Johns Hopkins hospital to be tested for cancer, the disease from which she unfortunately dies quickly. In the interim, the hospital lab, as it does with every cancer patient, has taken a biopsy of Mrs. Lacks' malignant cells. However, unlike thousands of other cell samples, these multiply with astounding rapidity and can be thus used worldwide for study. This true story grapples with social, racial, and ethical issues. ***this is our all-high school summer read**

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Assignments 2017

Vocabulary

Handwrite each vocabulary word and its definition from the attached list in your vocab notebook. Learn 2 - 3 words each day. Notebooks will be checked in September. **Plan on your first vocabulary test during the first full week of school.**

Written Work

After reading each novel, complete the following tasks. All work should be your original work. Do these immediately after finishing your reading so that you may respond when the information is fresh. **A hard copy of your essay** is due on the first day of class.

1.) Questions and Reactions

A.) Compose **one** specific discussion question for each novel: *Little Bee*, *Beloved*, and *Ordinary Grace*. Questions may express confusion, question meaning or interpretations, etc.

B.) Compose one detailed, specific and supported response for each of these same three novels. Responses should include references to specific actions, characters, and any quotations should be cited.

2.) Schoology Discussion Board: Schoology work will be available as of August 8 and pertains to *Little Bee*. Specific instructions are posted on Schoology for a Discussion.

3.) Use any of your summer reading novels (**but not *Henrietta Lacks***). Type and double space your essay (maximum 1000 words).

a.) This prompt is from the 2017 AP exam.

Prompt: Select a novel that features a character whose origins are unusual or mysterious. Then, write an essay in which you analyze how these origins shape the character and the character's relationships, and how the origins contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.

- A. Circle the topic words in the essay prompt. Make sure you circle the three tasks or topics.
- B. Use these tasks or exact topic word(s).

We regret having to underscore this, but plagiarism is anathema. It is stealing. Don't even consider it.