



TCISD 2018 AP Literature Summer Reading Project

Welcome to English IV AP Literature and Composition!!! I look forward to an exciting school year ahead of us. Your literary analysis odyssey begins with the summer reading project. **It is important to note this completed project is due in class the first Friday of the first week of school. Incomplete or late projects will not be accepted.** Be aware that multiple daily grades, quizzes, an essay, and a test covering the reading assignment will be given within the first three to six weeks of the school year, as well.

* You will need to buy an actual book, e-books or books on tape are not acceptable. You can buy a copy of *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison from your local book seller (Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, Half Price Books...etc). If you have trouble finding the book, please let me know before August. You can e-mail me throughout the summer if you have any questions (eharris@tcisd.org).

Your summer reading project will consist of three parts.

- **Cover Letter:** Write a letter introducing yourself to me. Tell me about your likes, dislikes, strengths, and weaknesses with English literature and composition. Also, tell me your expectations for this course. Your letter should be in a business letter format and should not be longer than one page.

- **College Essay:** Write an essay answering a prompt for a college or scholarship for which you are applying. Include a copy of the prompt. Your essay must follow MLA format (one inch margins, double spaces, 12 point, Times New Roman font, MLA paper heading must be included, as well). If you do not have a prompt to work from, select one of the following:
 - Choose an issue of importance to you - the issue could be personal, school related, local, political, or international in scope - and write an essay in which you explain the significance of that issue to yourself, your family, your community, or your generation.
 - Considering your lifetime goals, discuss how your current and future academic and extra-curricular activities might help you achieve your goals.
 - You've got a ticket in your hand - Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

- **Literary Work:** Read and annotate *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. Complete a reading journal as you read. The journal should consist of a minimum of ten journal entries focusing on the following reading strategies:
 - **Literary device (LD):** Consider techniques, such as symbols and allusions, the author uses to reveal theme. How does the author use diction and dialogue to reveal character? What is the author's tone?
 - **Text connections (TC):** Relate to a quote, description, character, setting, etc. by connecting it to your own life, another text, or to the larger world.
 - **Questions about the text (Q):** Address any confusion by posing a question about a quote, passage, character, etc. – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

- **Textual significance (TS):** Explain why you think the line, passage, or description is important. How is it connected to other events? What does it reveal about theme?

****Note: Do not use any additional resources to complete this assignment. Doing so will be considered cheating and will result in a grade of a zero on your journal.****

Each journal page should consist of the following example. Successful reading journals will adhere to the following:

- ✓ In the textual evidence column, write exact quotes using ellipses (. . .) for long passages and enclosing text in quotation marks. Document page number, speaker, and any other information necessary for recall.
- ✓ In the commentary column, record your thoughts and reactions and label them using the previously mentioned reading strategies.

****Note: Your textual evidence should be collected evenly throughout the book, reflecting a consistent journal-keeping effort. (You should average four journal entries for every 2-3 chapters) The accompanying commentary must demonstrate use of all reading strategies and insight, a focus on details, and the beginning of analysis.***

Examples of Journal Entries:

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE	COMMENTARY
1. “I know I fib a good deal. After all, a woman’s charm is fifty percent illusion, but when a thing is important I tell the truth, and this is the truth: I haven’t cheated my sister or you or anyone else as long as I have lived.” (sc. 2, p.41) <i>Blanche to Stanley when he questions her about losing Belle Reve</i>	The word “illusion” seems consistent with Blanche’s character. She is secretive about her age and concerned about how she looks, as if she is trying to be someone she is not. Could illusion be part of the theme of the play? (TS) (Q)
2. Description of “shadows and lurid reflections” and prostitute struggling with drunkard until police officer breaks it up; Negro woman comes along and takes purse that prostitute dropped (sc. 10, p. 128)	Does Blanche see this scene played out or is it only for the eyes of the audience? This scene of struggle might serve as foreshadowing for what is about to happen between Blanche and Stanley. Is the purse symbolic of something Blanche will lose, like the high-class persona she tries to portray? Do the sequins represent Blanche’s false decadence? (LD) (Q)

I look forward to meeting you next year. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

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