

AP Literature Summer Reading

White Station High School

Ms. Monique Fisher

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzM3MTgzNzI4OTEw?cjc=h3kjah7>

APES Class of 2022 Remind: @983hb2d

- **Summer Assignment #1 Write Your Reader Profile.**

Write a personal statement (approximately 300-500) introducing yourself and highlighting your interests, accomplishments, as well as your strengths and weaknesses in English. Please include what you like about English and what you may dislike or find a struggle. The information you provide me about yourself will enable me to better understand and help you as a learner. Upload this statement to Google Classroom. The link to join the course is above.

- **Summer Assignment #2 Select one of the following books and complete a review sheet on it.**

Classic

Ayn Rand

Atlas Shrugged

1,168 pages

This is the story of a man who said that he would stop the motor of the world and did. Was he a destroyer or the greatest of liberators?

The Fountainhead (Lexile: 780)

704 pages

The story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.

Check out the essay contests for these novels at aynrand.org.

William Faulkner

As I Lay Dying

267 pages

Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Told in turns by each of the family members—including Addie herself—the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.

Arthur Miller

The Death of a Salesman

86 pages

Willy Loman has been a salesman for 34 years. At 60, he is cast aside, his usefulness exhausted. With no future to dream about he must face the crushing disappointments of his past. He takes one final brave action, but is he heroic at last or a self-deluding fool?

William Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream

204 pages

When two pairs of star-crossed lovers, a troop of inept amateur actors, a feuding pair of supernatural sprites and a love potion gone awry all come together in an enchanted moonlit forest, the result is an unequalled mixture of merriment and magic.

Kurt Vonnegut

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Slaughterhouse Five (Lexile: 850)

215 pages

A fourth-generation German-American is tortured by his memories of the firebombing of Dresden in 1944 which he witnessed while a prisoner of war.

Toni Morrison

Beloved (Lexile: 870)

275 pages

Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep *Beloved*, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.

Tom Stoppard

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

126 pages

Presents the play of Hamlet as seen through the eyes of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Samuel Beckett

Waiting for Godot

109 pages

The story revolves around two seemingly homeless men waiting for someone—or something—named Godot. Vladimir and Estragon wait near a tree, inhabiting a drama spun of their own consciousness.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

182 pages

Tells of a labor camp inmate's struggle to maintain his dignity in the face of Communist oppression.

Thomas Hardy

Far from the Madding Crowd (Lexile: 1110)

468 pages

Gabriel Oak, in love with the beautiful heiress Bathsheba Everdene, waits patiently while she works her way through the hearts of local men.

Modern

Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time (Lexile: 1180)

226 pages

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Jostein Gaarder

Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy

518 pages

Uses the life of a schoolgirl, Sophie, as a backdrop for a discussion of the meaning of life and the history of philosophy.

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Carolyn Parkhurst

The Dogs of Babel

264 pages

Linguist Paul Iverson, desperate to learn the truth about his wife Lexy's death, sets out to teach their dog, the only witness to Lexy's supposed fall from a tree, to speak and give an account of the incident.

Isabel Allende

The House of the Spirits (Lexile: 1280)

433 pages

The epic story of the passionate Trueba family begins at the turn of the century in South America.

Dave Eggers

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

437 pages

A memoir in which the author discusses the unrelated deaths of his parents within a period of months, his newly acquired responsibility for his eight-year-old brother, and his creation of a satirical magazine. Also includes an appendix of corrections and clarifications by the author.

Art Spiegelman

Maus (Graphic novel)

295 pages

Memoir about Vladek Spiegleman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Jim Carroll

The Basketball Diaries

210 pages

A diary of the author's early teen years in the mid-1960s, telling how he progressed from sniffing glue to shooting heroin while playing basketball for Trinity High School in Manhattan.

Jack Kerouac

On the Road

Gabriel Marquez

One Hundred Years of Solitude (Lexile: 1410)

The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo as told through the history of the Buendía family.

John Irving

A Prayer for Owen Meany

617 pages

Owen Meany, the only child of a New Hampshire granite quarrier, believes he is God's instrument; he is. This is John Irving's most comic novel, yet Owen Meany is Mr. Irving's most heartbreaking character.

NONFICTION

307 pages

Presents a thinly fictionalized autobiography of Jack Kerouac's cross-country adventure across North America on a quest for self-knowledge as experienced by his alter-ego, Sal Paradise and Sal's friend Dean Moriarty (Kerouac's real life friend Neal Cassady).

Tobias Wolff

This Boy's Life

288 pages

Wolff's account of his boyhood and the process of growing up includes paper routes, whiskey, scouting, fistfights, friendship, betrayal, and America in the fifties.

Azar Nafisi

Reading Lolita in Tehran

347 pages

The author presents a memoir of her life in post-revolutionary Iran, focusing on her organization of a group of young women in 1997 who met secretly once a week to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature.

Ron Kovic

Born on the Fourth of July

216 pages

A veteran of Vietnam describes his experiences in the war and his reentry into American society after he was paralyzed.

Robert Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

(Lexile: 1040)

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418 pages

A father and his eleven-year-old son take a motorcycle trip across the country, and together, the two learn about life, love, and identity.

Don't see anything you like? Then, check out these choices. Alternate Titles:

<https://labaumbardaplit.weebly.com/ap-lit-book-summaries.html>

You can select anything on the list that you have not previously read, except *Frankenstein* and *Hamlet*.