

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment: 2009 - 2010

Assigned Works:

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien
A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams
Fences, August Wilson

Welcome to the wonderful world of AP English Literature. I am truly looking forward to next year. As you know, an important component of the English program is the Summer Reading assignment. The Summer Reading Assignment is a graded assignment. Although we **will** discuss the readings in class, your knowledge of each work's content will be discerned in three ways: a written assignment, a visual depiction, and an exam administered during the first week of school. Please note: **Discussion on the novel and plays will take place after the exam, not before.**

I. Essay: In addition to reading the above novels / plays, you will be writing a well-developed essay on one of the above works. The reason why it will be so well developed is because you and I will be fully engaged – together – in the process. This essay assignment consists of **three** components: introduction with thesis statement, outline, and final essay.

Prompt:

Decide on a main theme / topic from one of the above works. Your essay will be a literary analysis in which you discuss the ways in which the author employs at least **3** rhetorical strategies that enhance your chosen topic. (You are identifying and analyzing what message the author is trying to get across and what rhetorical devices he or she is using to get that message across; in other words, you are looking at how rhetorical strategies affect meaning.) In your analysis, consider rhetorical strategies / literary devices such as allegory or extended metaphor, point of view, structure, detail, tone, diction, imagery, narration, and figurative language. Your introduction should begin with an “into” that prepares your reader’s brain for the topic that will be discussed in your essay. This “into” should be followed by a thesis statement that clearly states what you will be proving / discussing in your essay.

The written assignment consists of 3 components:

1. Introduction (Into and Thesis statement): E-mail your introduction, complete with an into and thesis statement to me by Friday, July 31 (johamm@charter.net).
If approved, you are ready for #2; if denied, you must resubmit.
2. Outline: an outline of your essay is due during the first full week of school, Tuesday, August 18.
3. Essay: In-class essay to be written during the first full week of classes, Thursday, August 20.

In a nutshell: you will be e-mailing me **1** item (**I will either approve or not approve that item when you send it.**) If approved, you will go on to the next assignment. If not approved, **you must resubmit.** **All dates are firm! Your grades on your summer reading assignment comprise the majority of your first marking period grade.**

Please e-mail me at my **home email address:** johamm@charter.net. Copy your email to jhamm@missionprep.org

II. Exam: The summer reading exam is scheduled for **Friday, August 21.**

III. Poster:

- Design a poster on poster board (size 12 x 18) that depicts one of the main themes / topics of one of the other three works (**other than the novel / play on which you chose to do your essay**).
- Select a passage that supports the topic that you have chosen to illustrate. Copy the entire **meaningful** quote onto the front of your poster (**it must be visible from a distance**).
- Posters are due on **Tuesday, August 18.**