



## English IV AP Summer Reading 2010

**Overview:** The primary goal of the AP English Literature course is to engage in the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, and the evaluation of literature. In order to accomplish these goals, it is imperative that you read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In order to give you as much experience as possible, a good summer reading assignment is in order.

**The Reading:** Over the summer, you will read three works – to get you started on your road to literary astuteness. Two are required by everyone; the third work is to be chosen from the list below. The two required works: *1984* by George Orwell; *Benito Cereno* by Herman Melville (don't give away the secret and don't ruin your own surprise; I think you'll like this one). The third book is to be chosen from the following list. Do yourself a favor and do not read a book that you have already read. That is SOOOOO uncool.

*Brave New World* (another post-apocalyptic novel)

*Bless Me Ultima*

*The Bluest Eye*

*Candide* (a very interesting little diddy)

*Ceremony*

*The Color Purple* (a staple of African-American Literature)

*Crime and Punishment*

*Cry, the Beloved Country*

*Don Quixote* (A world classic. You'll really want to read this sometime in your lifetime)

*Emma* (a nice Jane Austen novel)

*The Eumenides*

*Great Expectations* (everyone needs a little Charles Dickens)

*A Handmaid's Tale*

*Major Barbara*

*Moby-Dick*

*The Piano Lesson*

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

*The Portrait of a Lady*

*Praisesong for the Widow*

*A Raisin in the Sun*

*Song of Solomon* (Toni Morrison; need I say more?)

*The Stone Angel*

*Mourning Becomes Electra* (3 plays by Eugene O'Neil)

*Twelfth Night*

*The Warden*

*Wuthering Heights* (The book referenced in *Twilight*)

*Native Son* (another great African-American work. It's quite...unnerving though)

*Brave New World* (a nice little science fiction work)

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* (a story of evil and corruption)

*The Sun Also Rises*

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

*Love in the Time of Cholera*

*100 Days of Solitude* (this and the title listed above are written by a noble-winning author of literature)

*The Thief* series (in honor of Mr. Laurange...you can read one or all three)

*Pygmalion*

*To Kill a Mockingbird* (if you haven't read this one yet, you need to)

**The Assignment:** For both *1984* and *Benito Cereno*, you will complete the dialectical journal, using the directions given. Following the completion of those works and the dialectical journal, you will write a short, focused argument consisting of a complex and specific claim, evidence, and evidence analysis. You will type the prompt for each of these paragraphs, in bold font, before you write your claim. Your prompt should address a major element of the novel that you find interesting and elaborate on its use and effectiveness. Each of these short writings should be 2-3 pages in length and be written in MLA format. Outline sketches are encouraged but not required.

For your optional reading from the above list, I want you to read this one as if you are reading for active leisure. You should highlight quotes you find intriguing and mark up your book as you see fit. But there is no formal quote response for this assignment. There is, however, an essay and a presentation to accompany it. Here's how that goes: once you have completed that third work, consider the following prompt. Note that it is general for a reason:

Given the work you have just engaged in, what – would you argue – is the author's greatest success with the work? Is it his development of character, for example? Her dynamic plot structure? His ability to evoke dark imagery and instill fear in the human psyche? Her ability to adequately criticize the social structure of the time period described within?

Now, that you have the prompt, you should create a formal outline for this one consisting of thesis, claims, evidence, and optional evidence analysis questions. You should include the first draft of your essay that shows proof of editing and revision. Then, include your final draft for grading purposes. Aim for about 5-7 double-spaced pages; this is pure literary analysis on your part. No outside sources required – unless you're just up to the challenge and want to include one. Just make sure to cite it.

Upon returning to school in August, each student will present the outline of their essay in a Power Point presentation so that we can all hear about the joy of your summer reading. There are plenty of titles listed (and you can suggest one if there is one that you've just been dying to read but haven't had the opportunity – just email me for permission) so please try to avoid a lot of overlap. Claim your title on Facebook or something; you all can figure it out.

Fretting: Fretting over this assignment is not allowed. You all are AP seniors and you should be able to handle it. Consider this, too. Given the nature of this assignment, this will count as your first quarter project. In other words, there will not be a first quarter formal essay. Short writings? Yes. But no first quarter long essay. Why, you ask? Think...college application process. Your welcome.

Overall, this will be worth about 20% of your first quarter grade. It will be due on the first full day of classes in August.

Directions for the Dialectical Journal (Required for *1984* and *Benito Cereno*):

Each time that you read from your novel, be sure to write your thoughts and comments about a quote you find significant in your journal (this journal can be written or typed. All essays and outlines must be typed). Note the chapter and the page number before making an entry. Note literary devices and significance of the quote to what you have read thus far. Significance can include relevance to emerging themes, characters descriptions, symbols, etc.

A dialectical journal shows your own thoughts and ideas about the things you read in the novel. Feel free to write what you really think. Dialectic is a form of engaged argumentation—this means your journal should demonstrate an **active** interaction with the text as you read. Respond to it. Question it. Be involved in the story, not just a passive recipient. Complete sentences are not necessary here, but be certain to write

enough so that you can understand your own notes when you need to refer to them for the essay or for class discussion. You should be able to come up with a minimum of *three* entries per chapter though more are encouraged. You may use whatever format you wish but this is one I have used when completing such assignments:

**“It [the room] seemed to be merely a proper temple for an enormous stove, which, in the center, was humming with god-like violence. At various points on its surface the iron had become luminous and glowed yellow from the heat” (Crane 210).**

This sounds like a symbol to me. Given its detailed description and the fact that it is being presented early in the story, I’m thinking that this will come to represent something important. My guess right now, given the connotation, is that this stove is not a positive symbol. That idea of god-like violence and iron and the color yellow just aren’t making me feel all warm and fuzzy.

I like completing these exercises, while lying on my bed, in a cool notebook with a fuzzy feather-pen. But, you are welcome to find your own format and do what works for you, including the one your regular counterparts are *required* to use. Just make sure that you turn in a journal – for each work – with at least three quotes per chapter or section. You know what quotes are important, too. Don’t give me silliness. This is an important interpretive skill.

**The Submission:**

On the first full day of class, in August, you will submit your dialectical journal, your short essays, and your long essay (with supporting materials), in ONE submission. What this means is that you can put it in a brown mailing envelope; you can put a binder clip on everything, you can put it in a soft-covered binder or report cover, whatever. Just make sure it looks good and that it is all there. The dialectical journal and short essays will count 10% of your first quarter grade; your long essay will count 20%.

A final note on student integrity. You know the rules: no plagiarizing of others’ ideas, thoughts, words, etc. No use of online summaries or other “cheat” sources. You are taking this class because you enjoy the reading of good literature. Do it, then – on your own.