

AP English IV Literature & Composition

Any assignment that is plagiarized will be given an automatic grade of ZERO

- **Three books required**

1. All AP English IV Students must read

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster

2. Next, choose one from below and complete an essay (using the novel) based on one of the AP Prompt Questions.

***See below for **AP Prompt** information.

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë

The Turn of the Screw – Henry James

The Help – Kathryn Stockett

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Disclaimer: *The Kite Runner* contains a situation of sexual violence (rape), and you **must obtain parental permission** if you choose to read this novel. Please email Emily.Myers@mnp.org if you have any questions.

3. Then, choose one biography or autobiography of any person of your choice from British history. **This person may be any significant figure in history (art, literature, pop culture, politics, education, etc.) and may be from any time period of British history.**

Make sure that your parents approve your choice. Create an informational handout about this person including important events in his or her life, accomplishments, quotes by or about the person, and what we can learn from this person. Create a Works Cited page with an MLA citation of your book, and be prepared to give a presentation on your person during the first week of school. Outside sources are not necessary, so choose your book wisely.

*****AP Prompt Questions*****

For the “choice” novel, an essay should be completed based on one of the five AP prompts listed below.

The essay should not exceed 750 words (about two typed, double-spaced pages).

The year notation before each topic indicates the year in which the question appeared as an open-ended question (#3) on the AP English Literature examination. Students should utilize MLA format, and indicate the “year” of the topic in their title.

1967: Frequently in novels, an important character violates the laws, the conventions, and the rules of conduct of a society. In presenting such characters and actions, the author's purpose may be (1) to arouse our sympathy for the character who is violating the rules of society; (2) to divide our interest sharply between sympathy for the character and desire to support the principles of society; (3) to arouse our "satiric mirth" at the character who is violating the principles of society; and (4) to laugh with the character at the conventions that are being violated. Write a well-organized essay, illustrating in some detail two or more of these purposes [within the chosen novel].

1984: Select an important character who is a villain. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character's villainy and show how it enhances the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

1987: Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid mere plot summary.

1999. The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, “No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plugging thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time.”

Choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict with one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

2008: In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Focusing on the single novel, explain how its representation of childhood or adolescence shapes the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.