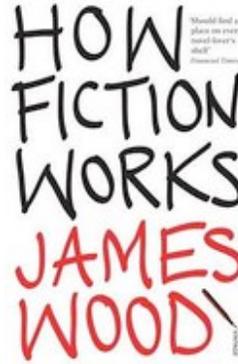
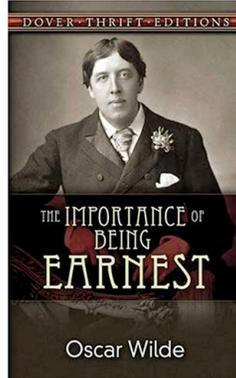
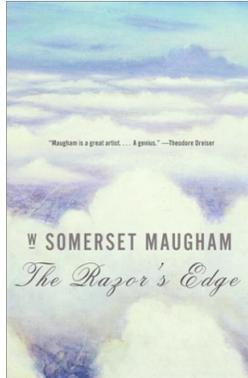


12th Grade AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment



Welcome to AP Literature and Composition.

This summer you will be reading, analyzing and responding to three very different literary works. Before you read though, consider why we read. Why is it that F. Scott Fitzgerald, during one of the darkest times of his life, gave his nurse twenty-two titles of books that he thought everyone should read? Franz Kafka said that “a book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside of us”, and C.S. Lewis said that we read to “seek an enlargement of our being. We want to be more than ourselves. Each of us by nature sees the whole world from one point of view with a perspective and a selectiveness peculiar to himself... We want to see with other eyes, to imagine with other imaginations, to feel with other hearts, as well as with our own” (*An Experiment with Criticism* 37). What would be your answer to the question ‘Why do you read?’ Why does anyone read?

Most importantly, we read to enjoy.

Reading should be about stretching and broadening our inner worlds as we expand our sense of our inner selves. Reading should also be about broadening our perspective so that we see the world through the diverse perspectives of others. Most importantly, however, we need to enjoy that which will surely become the tool that is used to stretch, broaden, and expand all that we are and know. So, read to enjoy the books listed for this summer. *The Razor's Edge* presents a story that is moving and deeply insightful in ways that may be expected and unexpected. *The Importance of Being Earnest* is satirically clever and challenging, and *How Fiction Works* posits meaningful ideas about the “why’s” and “how’s” of literature.

While reading, pay attention to what you find important. Avoid becoming overly academic when reading the novel and play the first time through. Instead, enter the conversation by marking passages in the book that you find meaningful. Jot notes and observations on pages that you feel are impactful. Get to know the characters and consider what is important to the author. Pause and take stock of your reactions and thoughts and inner conversations with the text. Enrich your reading and deeper pleasure of the text by signifying what connected with you.

After reading, be intentional. Work back through the books and isolate specific scenes that were of importance, were written differently and significantly, and capture literary interest. Know the specifics of setting and plot. Know what conflicts are presented and understand why they are there. Identify and begin the examination of thematic ideas. Be a close reader; be a reader who reads between the lines. You can read [How to Mark a Book](#)

or view David Foster Wallace's [Teaching Copies](#) or [this teaching copy](#). You can also view these [classic books annotated by famous authors](#). The idea is to be active in the conversation; intentionally converse.

Summer Reading Selections and Assignments for the AP Literature and Composition Student:

1. *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham [varied versions allowed]

Assignment: Read the novel for deeper understanding and literary appreciation.

- Complete a Data Sheet for this novel [This must be handwritten and thorough]; the template for the data sheet is provided below for you to print and complete.
- Written Response: What is Maugham implying about religion in this novel? Which religions does he specifically focus on? How does he use the character Larry Darrell to examine religion and humankind's struggle for truth?
- Written Response: Choose the character of most interest to you and examine either Isabel Bradley, Gray Maturin, Elliott Templeton or Sophie Macdonald. Discuss your character of choice's contribution to the story as a whole and what deeper insight their character reveals in the novel.

2. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde [varied versions allowed]

Assignment: Read the play for deeper understanding and literary appreciation.

- Written Response: What is Wilde criticizing about his society? How does he effectively criticize and why?
- Written Response: Isolate a scene that you believe is most significant in the play and explain why. In what manner does this scene illuminate the meaning of the overall novel? Do not merely summarize the plot of the scene.

3. *How Fiction Works* by James Wood [varied versions allowed]

Assignment: Read the chapter titled, "Sympathy and Complexity" for this assignment [Have the book for class use throughout the course]

- Written Response: Chekhov said that novels only need to "ask the right questions", not necessarily provide philosophical answers. Perhaps we all are looking for novels to, as Woods says, "give the best account of the complexity of our moral fabric". How and why does literature raise "our sympathies toward other selves" and present the "best account of the complexity of our moral fabric"? Utilize your own literary examples to demonstrate your ideas.

Summer Reading and Assignment deadline: The first day of school, Wednesday, August 9th, 2017. Please have an electronic copy of your assignments (both the data sheets and essays) with you on the first day of school. Your teacher will give you submission instructions on the first day. *Please note that if you experience any difficulties with an electronic copy, you should bring a printed copy to school. Any student who does not have his/her assignment in class on the first day of school will receive a late penalty.

Summer Work Requirements: Please type, double space, and use either Times New Roman or Calibri 12 pt. font for all written work assigned below. Mid-lengthed essays are typically 2-4 paragraphs in length. Be sure to use proper essay expectations [fully developed paragraphs, developed sentence level ideas, specific textual evidence to support main ideas, mastery of grammar, usage, mechanics, etc.]. When using specific textual evidence, add parenthetical page number citation: Words in the sentence (143). Be sure to include the four line

MLA Heading (Name, Ms. Rambo, 12th Grade AP Literature and Comp., MLA formatted date) at the top of the paper per the norm for FCS English classes. Only third person should be used.

Note: Consider textual evidence. Start forming the habit now, if you are not already in the habit, of using textual evidence for every claim/premise that requires evidentiary supporting detail. Each response should include well-chosen textual evidence to support answers and examinations.

A P L I T E R A T U R E D A T A S H E E T

Title: Author: Publication Date: Outside source(s):	Provide <i>significant</i> details about the author (style, philosophies, criticism, etc.):
Literary Era: Information about the era (historical, philosophical, etc.):	
Identify the genre: How does this work fit into the genre? The era?	Plot points (bullet key events): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Describe the novel's <i>settings</i> and explain the significance of each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	
Explain the <u>use</u> & <u>effect</u> of <u>three</u> literary techniques:	Cite and quote one example of each:
1.	1.

2.	2.
3.	3.
Cite and quote three significant passages:	Explain the significance of each passage, or explain how the passage relates to the work as a whole:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Identify and explain key **metaphors (M)**, **symbols (S)**, and / or **motifs (F)** found in the work:

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Significant Characters

Major characters:	Relationship to others:	Three Adjectives:	Purpose / function in story:
1.	1.	1.	1.

2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.
Minor characters:	Relationship to others:	Three Adjectives:	Purpose / function in story:
6.	6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.	7.

Write and explain the THEME(S) of the work:

Write at least 3 essay prompts for the novel:

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