

Summer Reading Journal

English III AP and English IV

AP FICTION

Each student enrolled in AP classes on these levels is expected to read the AP selections on the summer reading list. The selections were chosen to afford opportunities for further class discussion and will form the basis for your first major projects of the year. Read with a highlighter and/or a pen so that you can mark important passages as you find them.

Reading Journal – As AP students, you will prepare reading journals for the books you read during the summer. These reading journals will help you analyze the novels as you read them and will serve as study aides for testing purposes in the fall. Reading journals will be collected on the third class day. If the reading journal is submitted late, one letter grade per day late will be deducted.

Format - For each novel, you will prepare at least one 8 ½ x 11 single-spaced, typed page, with only your name on the top. In other words, your name should be on the top of the first page of each journal. All information must be labeled with the proper heading; the bulleted format is acceptable. Do not staple all the journals together. Keep each journal separate.

While you will need to consult outside sources for the first three bulleted points, you are expected to complete the remaining points based on your own reading of the works. Any source that you consult, including the book itself, is to be cited in the MLA format. Journal entries should include both **parenthetical documentation** and a **Works Cited page** according to *MLA Handbook* (Eighth Edition) or *Strategies for Successful Writing* chapter 20. Please submit one Works Cited Page for all summer reading books and journals.

Lack of citation and inappropriate use of sources (such as use of sources in sections meant for your own analysis and interpretation) will be subject to the school plagiarism policy. At the teacher's discretion, a class may be asked to submit reading journals to turnitin.com.

The format of each reading journal is as follows.

- * Title, Author (date of birth, date of death, where he or she lived), and a brief summary of the author's contribution to the literature of his or her time period (two to three sentences long).
- * Original publication or performance date of work (not the date of the current edition).
- * Historical background of the work. In three to four sentences, provide information to clarify the author's purpose – for example, the position of women in *The Awakening* or the system of Apartheid in *Cry the Beloved Country* is critical to understanding each novel.
- ** Setting of the story (time and place)
- ** Mood
- ** Point of view
- ** Theme (in one sentence) – Identify the author's broader message
- ** Brief plot synopsis (250-300 words in complete sentences)
- ** List of main characters (brief descriptions; identify the protagonist and antagonist)
- ** Identify and explain at least two examples for each of the following: major symbols, allusions, motifs
- ** Choose three quotations and in one to two sentences each analyze how each contributes to the

symbolism, characters, theme, mood or historical background. Quotations do not need to come from dialogue and should be written in **full** (no ellipses) using quotation marks.

** You will need an outside source and documentation.*

*** This information should come from your own reading without an outside source.*