

Dear Prospective Highland High School AP Literature and Composition Student:

Congratulations! Your choice to enroll in AP English Literature and Composition is an important one that will inform and enhance your future. As one expert teacher of the course indicates:

Summer reading and writing is integral to AP work during the entire school year. Many of the skills and good habits that students need to succeed in AP English can actually be planted as seeds during the summer months, then nurtured, developed, and refined in the fall and spring. --Limarys Caraballo

In order to best serve diverse students ranging in ability, in previous experience, and in work ethic, the course will kick off before the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year with three (3) required reading assignments and two (2) required writing assignments that should be spread equally throughout the summer. I have provided "Checkpoints," or goal dates to organize your efforts. These assignments were chosen carefully after a survey of the College Board's recommended reading list as well as syllabi of faculty who instruct programs with high pass rates on the AP Literature and Composition exam.

Before the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year, I request the opportunity to speak with you regarding the academic rigor of this course. In addition, I am creating a Google Classroom section and a Remind class set in order that I might communicate checkpoints for summer reading assignments throughout the summer as well as post comments and resources.

Please find the the three (3) summer reading assignments and two (2) summer writing assignments below which will be mirrored on the Google Classroom with supporting documents:

AP Lit Summer Reading 2017

Required Reading:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* Foster (Checkpoint: June 23, 2017)
2. Choose ONE from this list: (Checkpoint: July 7, 2017)

<i>Medea</i>	Euripides	Hell hath no fury like an ancient Greek woman scorned
<i>The Tempest</i>	Shakespeare	Magic, monsters, comedy, and love.
<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Dostoevsky	Classic Russian novel about a man who decides to play God.
<i>The Orphan Master's Son</i>	Jackson	A family inside enigmatic North Korea--2013 Pulitzer Prize
<i>Brave New World</i>	Huxley	A future that science brings closer everyday
<i>Beloved</i>	Morrison	A baby ghost creates re-memory of slavery--Nobel Prize
<i>Clockwork Orange</i>	Burgess	Dystopia: strange future, strange gangs, strange slang
<i>Midnight's Children</i>	Rushdie	Telepathic children born on India's independence day.
<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Ishiguro	Scientific mystery in a school where all is not as it seems
<i>Madame Bovary</i>	Flaubert	Be careful what you wish for
<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>	Vonnegut	Time and space travel (aliens!) in a satirical anti-war period
<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i>	Paton	Two families, one African, one white, in South Africa
<i>Love...Time of Cholera</i>	Garcia Marquez	Magic realism from the Master and Nobel Prize winner
<i>Ceremony</i>	Silko	Native American heritage heals traumatized war veteran
<i>The Awakening</i>	Chopin	19th century woman rebels against traditional female role
<i>Importance Being Earnest</i>	Wilde	Comedy about confusion of identities and motives
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Hosseini	Two Afghani boys, politics, loyalty, and dueling kites
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Shelley	Think you know the story? Think again.
<i>The God of Small Things</i>	Roy	Brilliant child tells story of twins in a family in India
<i>Middlesex</i>	Eugenides	Born twice, first as a girl in 1960 and then as a boy in 1974
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	Tan	American-born daughters discover Chinese heritage
<i>The Goldfinch</i>	Tartt	Boy keeps a small famous painting-2014 Pulitzer
<i>Alias Grace</i>	Atwood	Girl convicted of a double murder; based on true event
<i>The Road</i>	McCarthy	Father-son journey in an apocalyptic landscape
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Bronte	19th century governess finds secret in the attic
<i>Cutting for Stone</i>	Verghese	Two twins born of a nun try to unravel their mysterious lives
<i>All... Light We Cannot See</i>	Doerr	World War II drama, a blind girl, a young Nazi, a magic stone
<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	Rhys	Acclaimed prequel to <i>Jane Eyre</i> about the secret's origin
<i>Bel Canto</i>	Patchett	Terrorists take over embassy during party: love and music
<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Achebe	Complex tribal civilization interrupted by colonialism

3. *The Invisible Man* Ralph Ellison (Checkpoint: August 4, 2017)

Writing Assignment #1: (Typed and Double Spaced) (Checkpoint: July 14, 2017)

1. After reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, select a minimum of five (no more than eight) principles or key ideas about literature from the *Professor* book and apply them to the novel/play of your choice.
 - For each principle highlighted from the *Professor* book, choose a sentence or paragraph from your choice book/play that illustrates this principle. Imagine if Foster were to use your novel/play in support of his idea(s), how would he explicate your choice? Support each principle with a direct reference to your novel/play. No more than 2-3 pages double spaced. "Remember, quotes should include in-text documentation in this format" (Kling 23).

Writing Assignment #2: (Typed and Double Spaced) (Checkpoint: August 11, 2017)

2. After reading *Invisible Man*: Choose from one of the following prompts and develop a 2-3 page formal essay with an emphasis on analysis. Remember that analysis is not re-telling or summarizing. It is staking a claim and proving it with textual citations, commentary, and extended examples.

1. Prompt #1--IM insists that juxtaposing himself against the light proves and illuminates his existence. He alleges, "Light confirms my reality, gives birth to my form [...]. Without light I am not only invisible but formless as well; and to be unaware of one's form is to live a death" (Ellison 6). How does light/dark/ness, blindness, and invisibility shape and inform Invisible Man's identity and attitudes?
2. One of the concepts in the novel is how an individual discovers his or her identity. Invisible Man claims that his "problem was that I always tried to go in everyone's way but my own. I have also been called one thing and then another while no one really wished to hear what I called myself. So after years of trying to adopt the opinions of others I finally rebelled. I am invisible man" (Ellison 6). By choosing to become "invisible," does he fulfill his agenda of determining his own identity or is his invisibility yet another form and identity thrust upon him by others/society? Does IM base his identity and reality on self-reflection or is his self-perception constructed by how others see him or do not see him?
3. How does Invisible Man respond in some significant way to justice or injustice? Analyze IM's understanding of justice, the degree to which his search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the novel as a whole.
4. One definition of madness is mental delusion or the eccentric behavior arising from it. Yet, Emily Dickinson wrote, "Much Madness is divinest Sense--/To a discerning Eye." How does IM's apparent madness or irrational behavior play an important role in the novel? Is his behavior the result of insanity or fury? What does the delusional or eccentric behavior consist of and how might it be judged as actually reasonable and sane? Explain the significance of madness to the work as a whole.

Sincerely,

Ryan W. Smith, English Teacher