

AP Literature Summer Assignment 2024

“The role of the writer is not to say, but what we are unable to say.”

Introduction:

Your summer assignment is a chance for you to read a variety of texts, explore ideas, and write in response to what you are reading and thinking. The assignment has three parts and all work is due the first week of school.

I have linked to all the texts that are available online, but in some cases you may need to go to your library or a nearby bookstore (or Amazon) to get a copy of the novel you choose.

If you need recommendations or have questions, I can be reached through email:

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Part I—Organizing

Text—[How I Take Notes](#) and [10 Note-Taking Tips](#):

After watching Study Tee’s notes system, I want you to think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used for this summer and throughout the year.

Assignment:

Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). We will use this notebook to create notes for the major works that we study, so find one that you really like.

These notebooks are small and have been great in the past: [Amazon Notebooks](#) (They come in packs of four, so you and three of your mates can split them). Remember, get one that you like.

Why it is important:

The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy; the most important aspects are not always salient. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. This notebook will serve as a means to consolidate what you have learned throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make. Make your own. Decorate it if you like or keep it clean and clear.

Part II—Seeing

Text—[The Nerdwriter Analyzes Edward Hopper’s ‘Nighthawks’](#)

Evan Puschak has his own YouTube Channel (NerdWriter) in which he offers video essays. These are good essays which range from art, to film, to politics, to literature. He is thoughtful, well-researched, and has a keen sense of timing and audience awareness. In this video essay he analyzes one of the iconic 20th century American paintings, ‘Nighthawks’ by Edward Hopper. Pay attention to not only what he sees, but also notice the biographical and historical context he weaves into his analysis. He does a great job using both images and words to teach you about the painting.

Assignment:

For your first set of StudyTee notes, I want you to write two pages. Choose a work of art that you enjoy or has meaning to you. It can be a work of literature. It can be a painting. It can be a song. It can be any creative endeavor that has some fascinating artistry. I want you to analyze that work of art on a similar level to Evan Puschak (the Nerdwriter). If you look at his show notes on the YouTube page for the ‘Nighthawks’ video essay, he has done a fair amount of research. I want you to do the same. In your notes, find an organized way to explain its [artistic merit and value](#). Don’t just provide a summary of what it is, analyze how it operates and why it is important.

Why it is important:

I want you to use your notes to enrich your personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary. For that to happen, these notes should be so much more sophisticated than a summary. They should reveal the complexity of the work of art. You have to articulate not only what it means to you, you should also have a broader appreciation of the artist, the cultural and historical context in which it was created, and how the work has transcended time and remains relevant.

Part III—Reading

Text 1—[Leo Babauta’s Why I Read \(+ a Dozen Book Recs.\)](#)

Assignment:

Write a page of notes about your relationship with reading. Share an honest assessment of the role that it plays in your life. Think about how you would conceptualize and categorize the impact reading has had on you. I value honesty over flattery. If reading is not your thing, say it. If you love it, then let me know. I don’t care so much which side you take. More important than what you choose is the truth of your reflection. I want to read about why you feel the way that you do. I want to know what you are like as a reader.

Why it is important:

This is the first step in me getting to know you as a reader. What’s more important for AP Lit than that?

Text 2—[Any novel on this list](#) or [this one](#)

Assignment:

Read any novel on the National Book Award list or the list of Pulitzer Prize winners for fiction from the past 20 years. They can be runner ups or winners. They cannot, however, be books that are taught here at Bay Path (*No Road*). You can click on the titles to learn more about each book. It is worth your time to research and not just pick. Read the first few pages to make sure it is a book you like. If you do not like it after 50 pages, I'd switch. Try to choose a book you will enjoy. **(Do not choose *Tinkers*)**

Then create 3 pages of notes about your book. How you organize those three pages is up to you. I know that this is vague and undefined, but look at it another way. I am encouraging you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is create three interesting pages of notes about your novel. Impress me!!!

Why it is important:

A mature thinker chooses and develops his or her own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. I respect your ability to make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, and personal experiences and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed my expectations. So, do it. Exceed my expectations!!!

Text 3—[Poetry Foundation Poem of the Day](#)

Assignment:

Poetry Foundation features a poem each day from a diverse list of present and past poems. Choose two poems from any dates over the summer and create notes for each. The notes should focus on an [analysis](#) of each poem. Look for parts that are interrelated. Find the individual aspects of the poem that give it meaning (Word Choice, Poetic Devices, Rhythm, Rhyme, Tone, Shift, Etc.,). [Here](#) is a good example of a complex analysis of a popular middle school poem. A more sophisticated analysis of an e.e. Cummings poem can be found [here](#).

Why it is important:

Thoughtful readers write to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately by selecting apt and specific evidence, organizing the evidence into broader ideas, and conveying the impact of its meaning.