



AP Literature: Ms. Seifert & Mrs. Ballou Summer Reading Assignment 2024 - 2025

molly.seifert@beechwood.kyschools.us
selena.ballou@beechwood.kyschools.us

Dear student,

We are excited about getting to know you and working with you next school year! In preparation for our time together, we have designed this reading assignment to keep you sharp over the summer and to give us the opportunity to examine your reading, writing, and critical thinking abilities. In addition, we want to prepare you for the rigor of AP Literature and Composition.

Your task is to complete this relatively short, straightforward assignment that will be useful for two reasons. First, it gets you reading and thinking critically about literature, which is the majority of what we will do in AP Literature. Second, these books will be helpful when answering Free Response Question #3 on the AP Literature Exam in May 2025.

Your 2024 summer assignment consists of three parts:

Part #1:

Read **two** of the books listed below. We highly suggest purchasing these books so you can annotate them as you read. Why annotate? [Read this document](#) for rationale and suggestions for annotating. However, feel free to borrow the books from the library if you prefer.

***NOTE: This is a college-level course; therefore, some books may contain mature language and/or situations. Please see our message to students and parents on the next page, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

<i>Title of Book (times referenced on FRQ #3)</i>	<i>Author (Date Published) Genre/Notes</i>
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns (2)</i>	Khaled Hossieni (2007) Novel set in Afghanistan; strong friendship themes
<i>Salvage the Bones</i>	Jesmyn Ward (2011) Coming-of-age novel, African American literature, thriller
<i>Catch-22 (15)</i>	Joseph Heller (1961) Satirical war novel
<i>Jane Eyre (23)</i>	Charlotte Bronte (1847) Victorian Romantic coming-of-age novel dealing with class and gender roles
<i>The Scarlet Letter (15)</i>	Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850) Historical fiction based in Puritan New England dealing with shame, guilt, and repentance.
<i>Billy Budd (12)</i>	Herman Melville (1924) Dramatic novel set at sea

<i>All the Pretty Horses</i> (8) or <i>No Country For Old Men</i> (1)	Cormac McCarthy (1992), (1980) These adventure/western novels are gritty -- if you don't like violence, don't read these!
<i>Middlesex</i> (1)	Jeffery Eugenides (2002) Family saga novel, coming-of-age story; explores gender identity
<i>Brave New World</i> (6)	Aldous Huxley (1931) Dystopian novel, psychological

*****A message about the book choices:**

Good literature challenges us. It not only challenges our reading abilities, but it also challenges our sense of empathy, our understanding of the world, and sometimes even our willingness to stretch our thinking beyond familiar perspectives. Literature invites us to more fully understand human experience, to think beyond what we already know and are comfortable with. So if you come across language or ideas in these (or any) books that make you feel uncomfortable, please do not immediately dismiss the books as threatening -- instead, approach the situation as an opportunity to grow towards adulthood and broaden your understanding of what it means to be one of the nearly 8 billion people sharing this planet.

Part #2

Complete an [AP Lit Major Work Overview](#) for both books that you read. These overviews will be helpful to reference before taking the AP Lit test in May. Simply make two copies of the given link. Be sure to complete each aspect of the overview completely. [Here is an example](#) of what your Major Work Overview should look like. **These are due the first Friday of the school year: Friday, August 16th.**

Part #3

During the first two weeks of school, you will answer an AP Lit Exam Free Response Question (FRQ) using your two chosen novels. Having a solid grasp on the plot, characters, symbols, and themes of your novels will be imperative.

Remember:

- Read both books in their entirety.
- Yes, many of these books have film adaptations, and it's fine to watch the film as a supplement to your reading - not in place of it.
- Complete the required major work overviews; these are due the first Friday of the new school year.
- Prepare for an FRQ on your chosen novels in-class.
- Reach out to us with any questions.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Ms. Molly Seifert

molly.seifert@beechwood.kyschools.us

Mrs. Selena Ballou

selena.ballou@beechwood.kyschools.us