

Dear AP Literature and Composition Student,

We are delighted that you have made the brave decision to enroll in AP Literature and Composition for next year. Though difficult, we believe that it can be one of the most rewarding courses of study in our discipline. We will study the craft of the authors and storytellers across a variety of cultures and time periods of humankind. Our goal is to facilitate an experience in which you thrive in the practice of academic discourse about literature. We also hope to engineer a few epiphanies.

Summer reading assignments are difficult to complete, but it is really important that we do them. As instructors, we build our school year under the assumption that you have *actually* read the novels assigned. If you make the choice to read the text in a fake way (you know of the many ways we “read” something for our classes), you will render yourself fake, and our classes will be the weaker for it. Actual, honest reading of the texts will validate your commitment to yourself as a scholar of literature and composition.

The reading assignment for all students taking AP Literature and Composition is on the other side of this letter. The reading assignment is the exact same whether you have Reynaga or McCarthy.

Read two stories:

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

and

*Loving Day** by Mat Johnson **or** *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

While you read, please do the assignment on the back of this page. It is due when we begin school in the fall.

***Note:** One of the novels we have chosen for you contains frankly adult content (*Loving Day*). It was not written in such a way as to shelter adolescents from the vicissitudes of sexuality and its consequences. If your personal or family values require you to abstain from this content, you should choose *East of Eden* as your second choice.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you in the fall.

Regards,

Ms. Reynaga

Mr. McCarthy

Summer Reading Assignment

The readings: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
And
Loving Day by Mat Johnson **or** *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

The assignment: REVIEW THE WHOLE ASSIGNMENT BEFORE READING THE NOVELS. Do the following assignment for each of the two novels. If you do not adequately understand the literary terminology below we expect you to research the term/concept until you do understand it.

Before You Read

- 1. The cover and first few pages.** Title/Author/ Genre/Publication Date
- 2. What people thought of it.** Briefly discuss the critical reception of the work. Find at least one direct quotation from a published review that was written within one year of the book's publication date. Cite it properly.

As You Read

- 3. Character.** As you read, keep a list of characters as you meet them (in order). Once you're done, pick the three most important to the story and briefly describe what you know about them and why you decided they are the most important.
- 4. Setting.** Describe the setting of the work and briefly discuss how this setting influences the plot or characters. Include 5 brief descriptive quotes.
- 5. Allusion.** Identify at least one important allusion.
- 6. Symbol.** Identify two important symbols. We recommend concrete objects. Include a supporting quotation for each one; pick a place in the novel where the symbol appears. Discuss what you think the symbol represents.

Post Read

- 7. First Line/Last Line.** After you have finished the novel, write down the first and last lines of the novel. Briefly explain the significance of the lines.
- 8. Conflict.** What are the conflicts that drive the plot?
- 9. Theme.** What themes are explored through the central conflict?
- 10. Title.** Explain the title. How is the title appropriate to the story?
- 11. Point of View.** What kind of narration does the author use? How does this choice contribute to the effectiveness of the work?

How to submit:

Reynaga's Students: Submit this assignment to turnitin.com by the first day of school AND bring a hard copy to class with you.

McCarthy's Students: Email this assignment as an attached file or share it through google docs/drive. Then bring a copy of it with you to class on the first day of school.

Test: All titles will be assessed in class *the first week of school*. You may use your assignment to help you with these assessments.

Questions: If you have questions about the readings or the assignments, please don't hesitate to contact us at (Reynaga) jlr_jfkhs@hotmail.com Or (McCarthy) KC-McCarthy@scusd.edu