

# AP Literature Summer Reading Assignment

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The following is a study plan for the summer. Please note that the first part is required, while other parts are either highly recommended or merely suggested. We know that some of you will have more time to spend on this preparation and some of you will be busy with travel, jobs, and other plans. We encourage you to do as much as you can.

## REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT

Select an author of recognized literary stature with whom you are already familiar by having studied one of his or her novels in school. Choose another novel by this author and read it carefully.

While reading this novel, you must complete a dialectical journal with no fewer than thirty entries.

**See the reverse side of this handout for detailed instructions for completing your dialectical journal.**

During the first week of class, you will turn in your dialectical journal. During the second week of class, you will be asked to write an essay in which you compare the two novels written by the same author. It might be wise to review the novel you formerly read.

Author	In School Novel	On Your Own
Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	<i>House of Seven Gables</i>
Twain	<i>Adventures of Huck Finn</i>	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>	<i>Death Comes for the Archbishop</i>
Steinbeck	<i>Grapes of Wrath or Of Mice and Men</i>	<i>In Dubious Battle or East of Eden</i>
Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i>	<i>1984</i>
Knowles	<i>Separate Peace</i>	<i>Peace Breaks Out</i>

These pairs are only suggestions. Any two books by *writers with literary stature* will fulfill the requirement. If you have any questions, email one of us at Roberts\_devon@asdk12.org or Elitharp\_kathy@asdk12.org.

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Because much great literature contains allusions to the Bible, Greek mythology, and the works of William Shakespeare, a familiarity with these works is essential to the serious study of literature.

Familiarize yourself with the following;

**Bible:** Genesis, Exodus Chapters 1-10, Judges, Psalms, Jonah, Job, and the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are most often alluded to.

**Myth:** I recommend purchasing (and of course reading!) one of the following;

- Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*
- Thomas Bulfinch's *Mythology*

**Shakespeare:** Many good Shakespeare plays are available on DVD. I recommend any of the following:

- *Taming of the Shrew*, Taylor and Burton
- *Romeo and Juliet*, Zeffirelli
- *Othello*, Lawrence Olivier or Fishburne
- *Julius Caesar*, Gielgud and Mason
- *Hamlet*, Lawrence Olivier or Mel Gibson
- *Merchant of Venice*, Pacino

## SUGGESTED

Keep a journal of the books you read. Try to include a classic every so often, but respond to all the books you read in writing. This can be part of a daily journal or diary, or simply a one-paragraph reaction after you finish each book.

# DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

**Directions:**

- 1) As you read the novel, choose **at least thirty quotations** that you think are important in terms of theme, character or symbol development, personal connections, plot/structure, etc.
- 2) Place your chosen quotations in the left column (titled “Quotations”) and your responses in the right column (titled “Responses”). See below for a partial example.
- 3) You may use ellipses (...) to leave out unnecessary portions of the quotation.
- 4) Your quotations should each be marked with the appropriate page number(s).
- 5) Your responses should reflect depth of thought.
- 6) The following types of responses are allowable:
  - a. Personal Connection (memories or feelings about characters or pivotal events)
  - b. Significant Passages/Extend Meaning (discuss theme, character, symbol, motif, etc.)
  - c. Textual Connections (parallels, repeated events, observations about structure or plot)
  - d. Difficult Passages (detail what is difficult to understand and pose questions)
  - e. Challenge the Text (spot a contradiction or something difficult to believe)
- 7) Remember, you will need to be intimately familiar with this novel and another novel written by the same author by the beginning of the school year.
- 8) Below is a partial example of some dialectical journal entries:

<b>Quotations</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<p>“There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go . . . nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.” (7, 8)</p>	<p>Apparently Maycomb is also a very slow, sleepy town that is pretty isolated from everything else. This seems to be especially true since they only have a “vague” notion of FDR’s speech (an allusion to the Great Depression of the 1930s – must be the era in which the story takes place) and there is “nothing” outside of Maycomb County. I wonder why they see the world this way – maybe people don’t travel because of the Depression or because that’s just not what people did.</p> <p><b>(Interpreting/Asking a Question)</b></p>
<p>“The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb. . . .” (9)</p>	<p>It seems that the town is a little closed minded in viewing the Radleys since they don’t go to church or do other things common in Maycomb. This seems to be a prejudice against their lifestyle since it seems that the town might not really know them and has become pretty superstitious about them. People often get suspicious about what they don’t understand or what seems strange to them.</p> <p><b>(Extending the Meaning)</b></p>
<p>“One night, in an excessive spurt of high spirits, the boys backed around the town square in a borrowed flivver . . .” (10).</p>	<p>This doesn’t sound like a six year old, so it might not be as realistic. However, this is written as a flashback, so Scout must be MUCH older now as she is telling this. Maybe she is just smart.</p> <p><b>(Challenging the Text)</b></p>