

June 3, 2010

Dear GT/AP students,

Next year is fast approaching; it is time to start preparing! GT English courses are rigorous and demanding courses for students who wish to grow as learners. We expect GT level students to be independent readers and thinkers. Our goal is to prepare students for college and the Advanced Placement Exams they will take during their junior and senior years. In order to prepare for these rigorous tests and courses, we recommend additional readings.

Traditionally, students have benefited from completing these works before the beginning of the new school year. All students should bring their notes to class.

9GT

Freshmen should read about Charles Dickens and his times.

Questions about Dickens are located on Ms. Mary M. Keane's teacherweb under "Homework for 9GT." (MaryKeane) Answers need not be lengthy, but be sure to respond in complete sentences.

10GT

Oedipus Rex – Sophocles

Animal Farm – George Orwell

A Separate Peace – John Knowles

For *Oedipus Rex*, students should note the major failings of the main character and write a short paragraph describing what you see as his *hamartia*, or significant character flaw.

Animal Farm is an allegory in which each character represents an historical figure or idea. It is an allegorical representation of the Russian Revolution. Briefly research this revolution and compile a list of the allegorical representations in the novel.

For *A Separate Peace*, compose four journal entries reflecting your thoughts as you read.

Consider character development, the use of setting (both time and place), and emerging themes. There will be a short assessment on these summer readings in October.

11GT

Each of the works below will be assessed on the dates given:

The Crucible - Arthur Miller - September 17

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain – November 9

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston – February 7

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald – April 11

For the specified works, identify 3-5 passages you feel are significant. Comment on their importance in notes on style and theme. These notes and passages selected should be your own ideas, not copied or summarized from other sources.

12 AP

Each of the works below will be assessed on the dates given:

No Exit or Waiting for Godot (September 30)

Read about existentialism before you read the work. (ex. handout from *Catch22*)

Richard III or Henry IV, Part I (October 29)

Note: For these history plays, you may find it helpful to do brief research on the time period and/or significant historical figures in the play before you read the work.

Emma or Pride and Prejudice (December 20)

Identify what the work says about the time period and the author's attitude.

A contemporary novel of literary significance written by a non-American (January 13)

Look at major literary prizes for suggested authors. (ex. Booker Prize, Nobel Prize)

The Poisonwood Bible (February 9)

For each of the first four specified works, identify the theme, 2-3 significant passages, and important stylistic elements. (Use the "style" page from the *Catch 22* packet as a reference.)

For the contemporary novel, take notes on theme and character.

We also encourage GT/AP students to read other works, both fiction and non-fiction. Studies show that students who read in a wide a variety of genres and time periods have greater success on the AP Language and AP Literature exams.

Have a great summer. We look forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

Scott Vennard
Emily Dulany
Nancy Griffith
Mary Keane
Emily Stackhouse
Catherine Kriner
Chris Mackechnie
Donna Alvarez