

RRHS AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2017
Grade 11

English 11th Grade: AP English Literature and Composition

Assignment – Please choose one of the following novels on the list below and read it this summer. You will need your copy on the first day of class in August. As you read, **do one** of the following:

1. Maintain a two-column reading log – noting various quotes, characters, themes, and anything you find significant while you read. You should have something recorded for each chapter.
2. Post-it notes – if you don't like writing in your book, annotate on post it notes and bring your copy to class to show your work.
3. Annotate directly in your copy – again, mark for the same information in number 1, and consider a one or two sentence summary at the end of each chapter or section.

What we will do with it in class next year:

1. You will write an essay based on your novel and a prompt provided. This will happen by the end of the second week of classes.
2. We will review a specific passage from each novel as a basis for our literary boot camp.
3. When we are finished with these boot camp passages, you will write a prose essay based on a separate passage from your novel.

Novel Choices:

***Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

Navigating between the Indian traditions they've inherited and the baffling new world, the characters in Jhumpa Lahiri's elegant, touching stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. In "A Temporary Matter," published in *The New Yorker*, a young Indian-American couple faces the heartbreak of a stillborn birth while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout. In the title story, an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors and hears an astonishing confession.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Obsessed with the secret of creation, Swiss scientist Dr. Victor Frankenstein cobbles together a body he's determined to bring to life. And one fateful night, he does. When the creature opens his eyes, the doctor is repulsed: his vision of perfection is, in fact, a hideous monster. Dr. Frankenstein abandons his creation, but the monster won't be ignored, setting in motion a chain of violence and terror that shadows Victor to his death.

***1984* by George Orwell**

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thought crimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...