

Part I

You are to read one novel of literary merit over the course of the summer: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (if you were in Lang and Comp) or *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (If you were in English 5-6). These two titles are in our bookroom, and Ms. Espinoza knows that you are coming to check them out for the summer.

In reading *Animal Farm*, recognize that the novella is an allegory of the Russian Revolution, so think back to what you learned about that revolution during your freshman year Revolutions Unit. While understanding this connection is helpful, what is of equal importance is paying close attention to how the characters change over the course of the novella. Please be sure to take notes on each character and the development of each character as the novella progresses. These notes will be checked at the beginning of the semester. Pay particular attention to Old Major and his messaging in chapter 1. Consider how his words impact the animals.

The Great Gatsby (for the few of you who are reading it) is an iconic novel about the roaring twenties and the morality that came with that time period. Please pay attention to Nick Carraway's attitude towards the events that he observes and relates. Be sure to consider the moral growth or withering that takes place in each character. This is most concretely seen through Nick's actions throughout the novel. Take notes as you track the characters' changes. These will be checked at the beginning of the year. Pay attention to how people remake themselves and what that means for U.S. society.

As a class, you will be writing an open ended essay at the beginning of the year on the novel that you read over summer, so be sure to know it well. You will want to be able to write about the novel's events and how they relate to the prompt without simply providing a summary of the text. It would be beneficial to review the other novel as well. You do not know which of the two books will be a better fit for the prompt, so having the knowledge of both books will be beneficial.

Part II

You will check out Perrine's *Sound and Sense*. We will be using this text extensively throughout the school year, so be sure to pay attention to what the authors have to say as you read. Please read chapter 1, "What is Poetry" plus the poems embedded within the text—"The Eagle" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson; "Winter" by William Shakespeare; and "Dulce et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen. Take a minimum of one page of notes on the chapter's content; however, more extensive notes lead to easier and better review as we get closer to the test. These notes will be checked and reviewed at the beginning of the school year.

In the text, each chapter presents information for study and then provides a number of poems that demonstrate the content discussed in the text of the chapter. Be sure to read the following poems in the chapter after you have read the primary text: “The Whipping” by Robert Hayden (pp. 12-13), “Ballad of Birmingham” by Dudley Randall (pp. 14-15), “Suicide’s Note” by Langston Hughes (pp. 18-19), and “Terrence, this is stupid stuff” by A. E. Housman (pp. 19-21). For each poem, consider the questions that follow the poem. These questions will help you with your comprehension. We will discuss this section and the poems early in the school year.

Here are some additional book recommendations if you are looking for something else to read over the summer. All of these novels have literary merit, and some are eligible for the free response question on the AP test.

The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
Beloved by Toni Morrison
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The Brothers K by David James Duncan
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Ishmael by Daniel Quinn
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines
Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Bless me Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya