

# Wilson High School

## AP English Literature Summer Reading Assignment 2018/19

(This is not the same as AP English Language; see the Wilson website for the AP English Language summer reading assignment.)

As a student of AP English, you will be expected to begin next year having read at least two books from the list that follows. During the first week of school you will have an essay exam on these two works. The test will mirror, in spirit, if not exact format, the essay section of the AP English Literature exam. On such tests, you are asked to explore your reading through an analytical lens. In doing so, your use of literary devices and depth of thematic exploration are important. Thus, while it will not be required to turn in a formal journal, the English Department highly encourages you to keep an informal journal of your impressions and ideas as you read.

Here are some potential points of literary exploration for you to consider:

- How does the author's use of setting reflect symbolic and/or archetypal concepts?
- How does the novel reflect the aesthetic conventions of its time?
- What relevant issues of social concern are explored?
- What is still relevant about the book today?
- What do you enjoy about the author's writing style? Is it their descriptive clarity? Is it an unconventional use of language? Perhaps it is the flair the character dialogue expresses. Conversely, please feel comfortable in noting which elements of the work you found less attractive and/or effective. But remember: be able to support your assertions.
- Pay careful attention to character development throughout the novel. Which characters are most clearly explored? What do their actions, thoughts, dialogue and presence lend to the work's overall structure (thematically or with respect to plot development, for example)?
- Please: Focus on utilizing the array of critical tools you have developed as you have evolved as a reader and writer. What literary devices do you recognize? Moreover, how do you view them as tools of the author?

Edward Albee—Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf

Jane Austen—Persuasion

Samuel Beckett—Waiting for Godot

Charlotte Bronte—Jane Eyre

Michael Chabon—Telegraph Avenue

Joseph Conrad—Lord Jim

Charles Dickens—Oliver Twist

Fyodor Dostoevsky—Crime and Punishment

Jeffrey Eugenides—The Virgin Suicides

William Faulkner—The Sound and the Fury

Gustav Flaubert—Madame Bovary

Jonathan Safran Foer—Extremely Loud and  
Incredibly Close

E.M. Forster—Howard's End

Herman Hesse—Steppenwolf

Oscar Wilde—The Importance of Being Earnest

Barbara Kingsolver—Flight Behavior

Toni Morrison—The Song of Solomon

Thomas Pynchon—Gravity's Rainbow

E. Annie Proulx—The Shipping News

Joyce Carol Oates—Foxfire

Philip Roth—American Pastoral

Brian Doyle—Mink River

William Shakespeare—The Tempest

Leo Tolstoy—Anna Karenina

John Updike—Rabbit Run

Robert Penn Warren—All the King's Men

Edith Wharton—Ethan Frome

William J. Kennedy—Ironweed

Virginia Woolf—To the Lighthouse

# Multnomah County Library Summer Reading Program



1. Select books, short stories, magazines, news articles, essays, comics, blogs, or graphic novels.
2. Read or complete the digital or cultural activities listed on the Multnomah County Library summer reading program game board and/or website.
3. Record your time on the Multnomah County Library Summer Reading game board or online game board app.
4. Please bring your signed (parent/guardian AND student) game board or printout of online reading game badges to the first day of English class.
5. All students who complete game cards will win a treat AND be entered into a raffle for fabulous prizes!

*This activity is OPTIONAL for AP ENGLISH LANG AND LIT STUDENTS, but it is the actual summer reading assignment for some other English classes at Wilson in 2018/19.*