

Deer Park High School Summer Reading Selections

Required Summer Reading for English IV AP

What is the Deer Park ISD philosophy behind summer reading?

Deer Park ISD requires all students enrolled in AP English to read over the summer in order to:

- Allow teachers to begin literary discussions at the level of depth and complexity required of an Advanced Placement course during the first weeks of school.
- Build a base of literature from which all students will draw when complaint Advanced Placement assessments.

How were the books chosen for these lists?

Pre-AP and AP English teachers and administrators met to discuss and determine the reading lists. Books were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate readability for independent summer reading.
 - Literary merit.
 - Recognized works for inclusion on the AP Exam.
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Students in AP English are required to read one book from the assigned list over the summer and complete one project before the end of the first two weeks of school based on their reading.

AP students will receive a major grade for the work they complete over their summer reading book by the second week of school.

PROJECT OPTIONS

Option 1 Character Journal

Divide the novel into roughly four equal parts. Next, choose a character and at some appropriate moment in the work write a confessional of two hundred and fifty words or so expressing the character's thoughts about what he or she is experiencing. The entry should include either one or two direct quotes with parenthetical documentation (page numbers), but the rest of the entry must be original. Grades will be based on the quality of writing, use of text evidence, and the degree to which you are able to capture the character or show insight into the character's plight. Remember, each of the four entries must be approximately 250 words.

Option 2 Analytic Journal - Tracing characterization, theme, symbol

First, divide the novel into roughly four equal sections. As you actively read, pay particularly close attention to characterization, theme, and symbolism. For each quarter of the book you are to transcribe a passage of at least 100 words that reveals something important about a character, helps develop a theme, or has some symbolic significance, making sure to include page number(s). If the passage is particularly lengthy, you may use ellipses...however, you will need to include at least 100 words of the original text. After transcribing the short passage, you must explain its significance-- what it reveals about a character, how it develops a theme, or how it operates symbolically. Although grades will be based mostly on the aptness of the passages and the quality of effort and insight displayed in the commentary, the commentary for each passage must be at least 150 words, making each of the four entries a minimum of 250 words (100 word transcript + 150 word commentary).

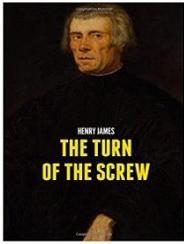
Option 3 Letter to the Author

Write a letter of at least 750 words in which you discuss the author's work. Your letter should include at least one of the following: A discussion of a question over theme, character or setting. Even though the letter is relatively informal, it must be written in well-organized paragraphs. Every point you make or question you have must be supported with a specific textual reference, including a direct quote and page number. If you praise the author, explain specific choices the author made and how it contributed to the novel's effectiveness. If you want to complain about something, the same holds true. Cite a specific choice that you think did not work effectively and explain why it didn't work. Your grade will be based on the thoughtfulness of your response and how well you show the depth of your reading. **One last reminder:** Since you are writing a letter, you should write in second person and use language that is a little less formal than a literary analysis. In other words, with the exception of the parenthetical documentation, your letter needs to have the feel of an actual letter.

Option 4 Technology Project

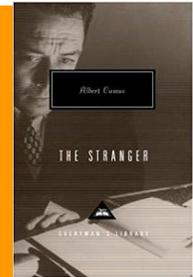
Create a movie trailer for the novel using iMovie (a free app) or a similar program. The trailer must be original and cannot use any ideas from a trailer that has already been completed. The trailer must address thematic content and focus on the problem that is resolved. The video must be at least 2 minutes. Students must include a 400-500 word analysis of the movie trailer. The analysis will identify their choices in sound, image and editing, and explain how these choices contribute to the trailer's effectiveness or reinforce an important theme from the novel. The analysis should be thoughtful and show the depth of your understanding of the novel.

12th Grade AP English Literature Summer Reading Options



***The Turn of the Screw*, by Henry James** --Widely recognized as one of literature's most gripping ghost stories, this classic tale of moral degradation concerns the sinister transformation of two innocent children into flagrant liars and hypocrites. The story begins when a governess arrives at an English country estate to look after Miles, aged 10 and Flora, 8. At first, everything appears normal....

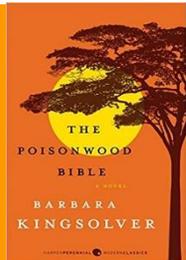
***The Stranger* -- Albert Camus's** spare, laconic masterpiece about a Frenchman who murders an Arab in Algeria is famous for having diagnosed, with a clarity almost scientific, that condition of reckless alienation and spiritual exhaustion that characterized so much of twentieth-century life. Possessing both the force of a parable and the excitement of a perfectly executed thriller, *The Stranger* is the work of one of the most engaged and intellectual alert writers of the past century.



***Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley** -- The astonishing novel presents Huxley's vision of a world of tomorrow utterly transformed. In Huxley's darkly satiric yet chillingly prescient imagining of a "utopian" future, humans are genetically designed and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively serve a ruling order. This story remains remarkably relevant to this day as both a warning and satisfying entertainment.



***The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver** -- 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



Caustic and hilarious, ***Candide* (Voltaire)** has ranked as one of the world's great satires since its first publication in 1759. It concerns the adventures of the youthful Candide. In the course of his travels and adventures in Europe and South America, Candide saw and suffered such misfortune that it was difficult for him to believe this was "the best of all possible worlds" as his teacher had assured him. Indeed, it seemed to be quite the opposite. In brilliantly skewering such naïveté, Voltaire mercilessly exposes and satirizes romance, science, philosophy, religion, and government — the ideas and forces that permeate and control the lives of men.



***Vanity Fair*, by William Makepeace Thackeray** is the story of Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley, who have just completed their studies at Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies and are beginning to embark upon the world. The simple-minded nature of Amelia, who comes from a wealthy family, is contrasted with the strong-willed nature of Becky, who will stop at nothing to climb the social ranks of English society. Set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars, "Vanity Fair" is Thackeray's classic satire of the societal trappings of Victorian England, self described as a novel without a hero.

