

## 2024 – 2025 AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading

“If you rake, you’ll get leaves; if you dig, you’ll get diamonds.”

John Piper, pastor and author

I hope you learn to dig and enjoy the fruit of your labor.

### Objectives for summer reading:

- ★ Read leisurely and enjoy (all of, some of?) the summer reading journey even if you never admit it to anyone.
- ★ Use common summer reading to facilitate class protocols for the year such as the following:
  1. how to handle problems and challenges well
  2. communicating with the teacher effectively
  3. turning in work
  4. discussion procedures
  5. writing processes
  6. and much, much more . . .

### Goal:

- ★ Complete two short tasks spread out over the summer instead of one miserable reading cram session.

### The Prudent Plan For No Stress Summer Reading:

- ☐ Take a three week break and just relax, spend time with your family and friends, and enjoy the first few weeks of summer.
- ☐ Pick a book of AT LEAST 200 pages if you haven’t already.

Suggestions for choosing, but not inflexible criteria, are to:

1. Peruse the AP Lit FRQ 3 essay prompts from the last three years.

Example:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap10-frq-english-literature.pdf>

Looking at the prompts will give you an idea of the freedom you have on that essay and what’s required for that question so that you can decide if you want to choose a book that will be an option for writing later. Choose any book you’d like to read that you have never read before, and then read it over the next few weeks. Verify you’ve done so. Earn FIVE bonus points.

2. Choose any historical fiction book set in your favorite era of history that you have never read before and read it over the next few weeks. I have several favorites from WWII, such as *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah and *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein. Check in with me for approval of your book via text, preferably, or email.

OR

3. Choose your favorite genre – realistic fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, historical fiction, contemporary fiction – and select a book from that genre. Also, check in with me for this option.

- ☐ Read for enjoyment and keep track of significant quotes or points you want to discuss at Coffee and Conversation. **Earn FIVE bonus points to use during the year if you have some notes to facilitate discussion.**
- ☐ Take another week off. Read the really short required text *Beowulf* (the Seamus Heaney translation). Actually read it. Note the importance of ancestry in this book and what makes Beowulf a notable leader.
- ☐ Then hang out at a cool coffee shop for a little while with your really cool (albeit old) teacher in one of three locations (petitions for more locations will be heard and adjudicated) and simply talk about what you've read while earning **FIVE more bonus points (if you have some notes)** and checking off your last task instead of writing a boring paper. Start school unstressed over the summer reading requirements.

## The Procrastinator's Approach

Just wait until the last minute like usual. Hopefully, you can find a short enough book to read that meets the above criteria and that you've never read before. Write a convincing, one-pager (a single-spaced, 12-point font type, NOT MLA-formatted paper) that reflects why you chose the book, what the book was about, and how you felt about it after reading it. Then rush headlong into the required reading for the entire class before writing another one-pager analyzing what YOU feel is the main theme of *Beowulf* as well as YOUR main impression of the story AND YOUR favorite relatable quote with an explanation of how it speaks to YOU (notice all of the above are YOUR thoughts, not formal analysis). All this will be due on August 7th (either in person or in Google Classroom).

## THE NITTY, GRITTY DETAILS

### PLANNED ROUTE

School dismisses May 22nd

Take a vacay ... rest ... relax .

Complete task #1: Goal July 9th (sooner is OK)

Read it leisurely. Enjoy your choice. Take a "SHELFIE" holding your finished book. Write an Instagram length personal review of the book featuring the picture of your "SHELFIE" and post if you'd like, or email me your picture and review OR place them in the provided Google Classroom folder.

THREE BONUS POINTS are available if you meet the deadline and follow all directions.

Take a vacay ... rest ... relax ...

**Complete task #2: Goal July 16th - 23rd**

**Read Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* and meet me for coffee at one of three possible locations on different dates and times. Discuss the text. Don't write anything. Done.**

**Teacher email: [atyree@lee-scott.org](mailto:atyree@lee-scott.org) (email to find out dates and locations of coffee & conversation meetings)**

## **PROCRASTINATOR'S ROUTE**

**School dismisses May 22nd**

**Take a vacay ... rest ... relax ...**

**All of June**

**Just keep resting ...**

**All of July**

**Don't mind us ... just rest ...**

**First few days of August**

**If you've been procrastinating, now panic! Refer to the assignment that's due 8/7!**

