

SUMMER READING FOR ENGLISH III AP



Welcome to English III AP! And congratulations for stepping up to the advanced study of Language Arts. Many people today are content to do as little as possible, so we commend you for your commitment to do more than is required of you. We hope you will find the experience rewarding.

Your assigned readings this summer are Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. You aren't required to buy copies—you could check one out from the public library or read the full text of each novel on the internet—but we recommend that you get your own, so you can mark it up as you read.

The Scarlet Letter:

These are challenging books, so don't wait until the last day of summer to tackle them (please note that you are not required to read the introductory chapter of *The Scarlet Letter* entitled "The Custom House"). You can expect to be tested over the novels, so read carefully for character, theme, and plot. But you'll have to pay special attention to setting. **As you read *The Scarlet Letter*, keep a journal on the importance of setting in the novel. Look for patterns and contrasts in setting, and notice how setting helps to reinforce the book's themes. The specific requirements for the journal follow.*****

- The journal will be due the first full class period, no exceptions.
- The journal must include at least 10 entries, approximately 100 words each.
- Entries must come from all parts of the book—beginning, middle, and end.
- Each entry must include a summary of the setting, embedded quotations (with parenthetical documentation), and your own commentary.
- The journal must be typed and double-spaced.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

Before reading:

- Do some research on Mark Twain on the University of Virginia site etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html

Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – **selected chapters ONLY**

- Chapters I-XIII
- Chapters XXXII – XLIII
- If you need/want to fill in the gap for what you DON'T have to read, check out Sparknotes.com

Assignments:

- This assignment will be due the first full day of class, no exceptions.
- Although Twain is often pictured in his "signature" white suit, he did not begin dressing this way on a regular basis until he was over seventy years old, even though this was how he felt most comfortable. Twain said, "It is the way people are

made; they are always keeping their real feelings shut up inside, and publicly exploiting the fictitious ones.” **Write** one page (ONLY – NOT MORE OR LESS) in which you agree/disagree with this statement, and then relate it to the character of Huck (whether he does/does not follow the sentiments expressed by Twain).

- Characterize Huck, Jim, and the Widow Douglas as to what societal stereotype they represent. Use specifics/quotes from the story to fully support your answers.
- Choose ONE of the following visual assignments:
 - Write and illustrate a children’s book about Mark Twain. Use author quotes as captions for some of your pictures. The book needs to be at least 10 pages with at least 5 illustrations, ALL ORIGINAL ARTWORK.*
 - Design a stamp portrait of the author which includes the author’s image and 2-3 well chosen symbols. The portrait itself must be no larger than 2”x2”. You may use online artwork as components, but the finished product must be original. If you want some ideas, the National Postal Museum at www.postalmuseum.si.edu is a good place to start. Staple your stamp to an explanation of your chosen images and, if not using original artwork, a list of sources.*
 - Create a collage of Huck Finn images, either from the Univ. of Virginia site, magazines, newspapers, or a combination. The collage should be no smaller than 11x14, ALL space should be covered, and it does not have to be only two dimensional.

Keep in mind that all the assignments for both *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* are due the first full day of class, no exceptions.

Want to do more than read? Your junior year is full of exams, so how about some test prep? In the fall, you’ll take the PSAT and the TAKS benchmark. In the spring, you’ll take exit-level TAKS, the SAT, and, of course, the AP Language exam. Vocabulary and reading comprehension are crucial skills on all these tests, so the wise student would take time over the summer to hone these skills. You can review your vocabulary words from both 9th and 10th grades. You can get PSAT study guides from any bookstore and find review sites online. We’ll be reading quite a bit of non-fiction next year, too, so you should get in the habit of reading newspapers and magazines, as well as keeping up with current events.

We’re looking forward to meeting you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail Mr. Land at jim1_land@sbcglobal.net or Mrs. Crocker at kcrocker@aisd.net.
Have a great summer!

*This lesson idea from The Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.