

**Summer Reading for  
AP English Literature and Composition Students  
(Grade 12)**

Students planning to take AP English Literature and Composition (AP/GT 12) must use their summer to prepare for this demanding course. As the course title indicates, this course will focus on reading literature and composing analyses. Therefore, students will have some required reading and an assignment to complete before school opens in September.

**Required Readings:** *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë  
*Othello* by William Shakespeare

**Assignment:** Some common themes in literature include revenge, man versus man, and man versus society. After reading the three works of high literary merit listed above, compose a 5-7 page (double-spaced, of course; one-inch margins; proper MLA format) paper in which you present a **convincing argument** that **one** of those themes is **prominent** in **each** of the works. Students are expected to construct a clear, concise thesis statement; make assertive points about each work, including thorough, documented support from the works; and prepare an accurate bibliography. Parenthetical citations and bibliography entries should conform to proper MLA format. Students may consult sources of literary criticism, but any material (including the required readings) used must be cited. Students should be prepared to turn in this assignment the first week of school (due: **Friday, Sept. 7, 2018 by 2 pm**). I will address any questions or concerns on the first day of class. **Students with questions or concerns over the summer may email [Ms. Lewis](mailto:Ms.Lewis). Email will be checked periodically over the summer and students will receive a response as soon as possible.**

**For clarification purposes:**

- Focus on **only one** theme...and yes, you must choose from the three provided.
- There is no wrong answer. A credible argument could be made for any of the themes. What I am looking for (and grading you on) is how well you **make your argument**. Convince me. Be assertive. Support your points. Make your case.
- Refer to the Spec Sheet. Notice the breakdown of points. Clearly the argument must be strong as it is worth more than half the points. Your analysis of the works is what you will use to support your contention. Your job is to use that analysis to answer the task (i.e., that \_\_\_\_\_ theme is prominent in all three works). Do NOT fall into the trap of plot summary. Assume your reader is familiar with the works; there is no need to summarize them. Keep focused on your analysis and bring in only the textual evidence that supports your argument.
- Make sure you think about what **prominent** means. If a theme is prominent, what does that mean to the work and how can that help your argument? **This is a vital piece!** (Don't forget the **why/how** aspect after you assert your theme is prominent.)
- I strongly urge you to review the Analytical Writing Musts before you begin composing. Those "musts" are not optional, and I expect that you adhere to them in all of your writing.
- Once again, do not be shy. If you have questions, email me (my address is listed above; do not forget the "2"!).

*AP Summer Reading Assignment  
Spec Sheet*

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points Worth</i>	<i>Points Earned</i>
Student submitted a 5-7-page paper in <b>correct MLA format</b> with spec sheet stapled behind it.	5	
Student included a bibliography in <b>correct MLA format</b> . <i>(Note: there is a difference between a bibliography and a Works Cited page!)</i>	15	
Student offers a clear, concise, effective thesis statement that sets up student's argument, i.e., that one theme is prominent in each of the 3 assigned works.	7	
Student organizes an argument in a manner that makes his/her <b>analysis convincing</b> . Student's analysis is <b>clear and coherent</b> . <i>Student must make strong, clear points about <b>each</b> work, explicitly <b>linking</b> analysis to the thesis. Build your case!</i>	55	
Student correctly uses parenthetical citation to cite quoted and/or borrowed material.	10	
Student's paper is free of spelling and grammatical errors.	8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>100</b>