

OAKBROOK SUMMER READING 2017

Rising Seniors (12th) in AP English Literature

AP English Literature students must read the following works and write essays on *The Grapes of Wrath* and *A Doll's House*. Students will be tested on *The Tempest* during the first week of class.

Read the unabridged versions of the following texts. Respond to the prompts in well-written essays due on the first day of class. Do not consult secondary sources. Bring your essays and a copy of *The Grapes of Wrath* to class on the first day of school. See the attached guidelines.

***The Tempest* by William Shakespeare** (Test)

As you from crimes would pardon'd be,

Let your indulgence set me free.

(from the Epilogue of *The Tempest*, lines 19-20)

The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (Essay)

Recently released from prison, Tom Joad returns home to discover his family devastated by the effects of the Dust Bowl and big business. The Joads leave their Oklahoma farm in search of opportunity in California but instead find injustice and cruelty. How does Tom respond?

Analyze Tom's understanding of justice—how does it develop and change? What events contribute to this understanding? What are the results of Tom's new understanding of justice? Decide what Steinbeck is suggesting about justice and the role of the individual within the group. Defend your answer using specific examples and direct quotations.

* Please bring a print or digital copy of this book to class.

***A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen** (Essay)

...I have been more of a poet and less of a social philosopher than most people have been inclined to believe... I can't claim the honor of ever having worked consciously for women's rights. I'm not even sure I know what they are. To me it has always been a matter of human rights. – Henrik Ibsen

A more exact English translation of Ibsen's title is *A Doll House* rather than *A Doll's House*. Note the elimination of the possessive noun in the first, more exact translation. Critics argue that this translation more accurately reflects the situation in which Nora, her husband, their children and servants, and to some extent their visitors, exist: a prettified imitation of a home and marriage. In other words, Nora may not be the only character living an imitation of life. Examine this idea, using evidence from the text to support your argument. Determine *who and what* is responsible for the doll-house condition of the Helmer marriage and defend your answer using specific examples and direct quotations.

Any serious study of English literature requires knowledge of certain background materials which will not only make the study more enjoyable but also add to understanding and appreciation. Familiarity with the following is necessary and required.

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* (an indispensable reference source—seriously, read it!)

Selected readings from the **King James Bible**:

Genesis	1:1-3:24 (The Creation and the Fall)
	4:1-15 (The First Murder)
	6:5-9:17 (The Flood)
	11:1-9 (The Origin of Language)
Isaiah	52:13-53:12
Luke	2:1-52 (The Birth and Youth of Jesus)
Matthew	5:1-7:29 (The Sermon on the Mount)
Luke	15:1-32 (The Parables of Jesus)
Matthew	26:14-75 (The Betrayal of Jesus)
	27: 1-66 (The Passion of Christ)
	28:1-20 (The Resurrection)

The Divine Comedy by Dante (optional but highly recommended)

Read the summary appearing at the beginning of each Canto.

Inferno (all)

Purgatorio (Cantos I, II, XIX, XXVII, XXX, XXXI)

Paradisio (Cantos I, III, XXI, XXXII, XXXIII)

MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.** Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour." This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9), that hour of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like "a rut in the road" (Hurston 72); Janie has no hope for the future.

- 5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
- 6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- 7. Do not use contractions.**
- 8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).**
- 9. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>**
- 10. Include an MLA Works Cited page.**