

OAKBROOK SUMMER 2016 READING ASSIGNMENT:

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 *The Tempest*. Students will be tested on *The Importance of Being Earnest* 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 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.

Examine the development of Tom's character on this journey. What are his goals and how do they change? What does he realize about the plight of the farmers and how does he intend to help them? Consider the characters and events that affect Tom's personal growth. Decide what Steinbeck is suggesting about the role of the individual within the group. Use quotations from the text to support your argument.

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

***The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (Test)**

Oscar Wilde examines the hilarious consequences of living a double life and criticizes the superficial morality of the late Victorian Age.

***The Tempest* by William Shakespeare**

*As you from crimes would pardon'd be,
Let your indulgences set me free.*

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

The magician Prospero rules an enchanted island. He is at once victim and usurper, healer and destroyer, father and tyrant. Examine this seemingly ambiguous character and decide if Prospero is an essentially good man or a selfish villain. Consider his actions and the consequences, as well as the opinions of other characters and their reliability. Support your argument with quotations and specific examples from the text.

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)

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(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. Your essay must be in MLA format, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one inch margins.**

- 10. Include an MLA Works Cited page.**