

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION REQUIRED SUMMER WORK – 2026-27

### Note to students:

When school begins in the fall, we will look closely at **the essential question: What does it mean to be human?** To prepare for this, you will read one play and one novel during the summer and complete the work listed below. **This work must be completed and submitted to the teacher on the first day of class.**

**Do the following:** a) create separate documents for each assignment b) follow MLA formatting c) type all work and d) submit work in TEAMS drop boxes available in early August.

**All work must be completed solely by the student.** These are not “shared work” assignments. No help from AI sources. The *only sources* the students may consult for completion of the assignments are the required texts. **Again, work completion is mandatory. Students who fail to follow this guideline must register for a course other than AP English Literature and Composition.**

**Subject matter note:** at times, the literary selections read in this class contain mature adult situations. Instruction and discussion of material will be handled with sensitivity. If a student has questions/concerns about the material at any time, please contact Mrs. Kirwan. If the need arises for a school counselor, the student’s class counselor will be consulted.

### SUMMER WORK ASSIGNMENTS – All work due the first day of class:

**A.) *TESS OF THE D’URBERVILLES* by Thomas Hardy - preferred ISBN 978-0-14-143959-4 (Penguin Classic) – please make sure the text has page numbers.**

### Essential Skills/Learning Targets

- ✓ I can demonstrate that annotations are purposeful.
  - ✓ I can demonstrate that close reading involves questioning.
1. **ANNOTATION: Read and annotate the *whole* book.** To annotate means to write comments about the material in the text while reading. Create a system for yourself and use it from start to finish. Read the supplemental handout [Interrogating Texts](#) for ideas. **On the first day of class, I will ask you to detail and explain the system you created for yourself. This will count as a progress grade.**
  2. **GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT LITERATURE:** As you read, consider the list of generalizations (on next page) and choose one concept to trace throughout your reading. Mark anything in the text that applies. Then write 1-2 paragraphs analyzing what you’ve noticed about the chosen statement. Your response should include *textual support* **and** comments on how this statement applies to the novel’s significance. The supplemental handout [Integrating Quotes](#) will be helpful. **Allow yourself the opportunity to find and create insight in your written response. Answers will vary.**

## ***TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES* – Generalizations About Literature**

Statements to consider. Choose **one**.

- a. Authors are not only social historians; they are also our cultural critics.
- b. In much of literature, the family is the source for the most passionate kind of conflict.
- c. A spiritual happening within a character often manifests itself through the experience of a journey. Every trip is a quest.
- d. Weather is never just weather in a piece of literature.

**B.) *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* by Arthur Miller - preferred ISBN 978-0-14-048134-1 (Penguin Random House) – Please make sure the text has page numbers.**

3. **CHARACTERIZATION:** Create a table with the following characters: Biff, Willy, Happy, Linda, Charley, Bernard, the Woman, and Howard. Next to each name write a full quotation from the play that you think accurately describes the character's most important trait. Identify and name the trait -- this means give a concise word or short phrase at most that captures the trait. Do not write sentences or paragraphs. Include the page number where you found the quote. This will be collected.
4. **PLOT ANALYSIS:** In paragraph form, explain how the present action and past action are combined to create an unusual, non-chronological approach. Your explanation needs to include evidence and commentary. (one page, double-spaced, 12 pt font, MLA format)

**C.) THERE WILL BE AN ASSESSMENT ON SUMMER READING WHEN WE RETURN FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR. MORE DETAILS WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN AUGUST.**

### **Helpful Links**

- **Supplemental Handouts** – to help you read and write
  - [Integrating Quotes](#)
  - [Interrogating Texts](#)
- [Summer Reading Work Agreement](#) – **Complete no later than May 21!**

**Need help? Contact me:** [Kelly.Kirwan@ahsrockets.org](mailto:Kelly.Kirwan@ahsrockets.org). I will kindly answer summer work related questions.

**REMEMBER:** Complete the [Summer Reading Work Agreement](#) via Microsoft Forms by **Thursday, May 21**. **It must be shown to your parents so that they are informed. You must include your name and their name in the survey. Including your names will serve as signatures to the agreement.**