

Incoming 10th Grade Pre-AP English Required Summer Reading 2009 Bellaire High School

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Students enrolled in Pre-AP and AP/IB English classes are expected to read widely, both for school and for pleasure. There are several purposes of summer reading. First, summer reading helps students to cultivate and maintain their reading skills, which can be lost when students go for several months without reading. Second, the AP tests that students take during their junior and senior years require students to have read widely throughout their high school career, not just in the 11th and 12th grades. The recommended reading lists provided by The College Board include more texts than can be taught during the school year alone. Thus, students intending to take these AP tests will complete some of their preparatory reading during the summer.

- All students entering English II Pre-AP are required to have read THREE works:

1) *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

AND

2) Student choice of ONE of the following:

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

AND

3) Student choice of ONE of the following:

Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Cannery Row by John Steinbeck

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck

- During the first week of school, there will be an objective test over *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The test will include questions over content and literary analysis.
- Also, every student entering Pre-AP English II MUST complete the following writing assignment, which must be submitted to www.turnitin.com before the first day of school AND to the teacher on the first day of school.

- DIRECTIONS for the writing assignment: Each student will write a total of 6 journal responses (three for reading choice #2 and three for reading choice #3 above). Students will select topics for journal responses from the following list:

In what ways can you identify with a character from the book?

Are you sympathetic or unsympathetic towards a character's dilemma or difficult decision? Why?

If you could change the outcome of the story, what change would you make? Why?

I agree/disagree with _____'s decision to _____ because...

The character who surprised me the most was _____ because...

Of what other book or story does this book remind you? In what ways?

What life lessons did you find in the book?

If you were to make the book into a movie, what changes would you make and why?

What did you most like and dislike about the author's style of writing?

- **Each** response must be typed, double-spaced, and written in multiple, logical, organized paragraphs (no single-paragraph responses). Your writing must be free of sentence structure errors (fragments/run-ons), subject/verb errors, and pronoun/antecedent errors. Each response must be a minimum of 1 page long (total of 6 pages minimum).
- DIRECTIONS for www.turnitin.com: Go to the www.turnitin.com website. Go to "create a user profile" at top right corner. Follow the directions after that. It will eventually ask for the class ID and enrollment password:

Class ID: 2725299

Password: twain

Make sure you submit this paper to the "Summer Reading Journals 2009" folder by clicking on "submit." Please use the "file upload" option and the "Browse" box to upload your paper.

Please submit all journal responses as **ONE document**. This means that you must combine all journal entries in a single document before submitting your work to turnitin.com.

In Pre-AP English, the use of study aids such as *Cliff's Notes* is not acceptable. It is expected that students are able to read the works on their own and complete assignments without the aid of such materials. All books included on the summer reading list are well within the reading level of Pre-AP students. Any form of plagiarism, such as including in the entries any material from sources such as *Cliff's Notes* or other similar study aids, or using another person's words OR ideas, will result in a non-passing grade for the assignment. Your teachers are not interested in whether or not you can **find** someone else's response to the literature; rather, they want to see **your ability to respond to the literature**.

Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active role in the student's reading. Reading the same works that the students are reading can be a great experience for students and parents alike. We appreciate everything that parents can do to help ensure that the work completed over the summer is the student's best work, and his or her work alone and no one else's.

SYNOPSIS of Summer Reading Books (from www.barnesandnoble.com)

The Adventure of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain “Perhaps the best-loved nineteenth-century American novel, Mark Twain’s tale of boyhood adventure overflows with comedy, warmth, and slapstick energy. It brings to life an array of irresistible characters—the awesomely self-confident Tom, his best buddy Huck Finn, indulgent Aunt Polly, and the lovely, beguiling Becky—as well as such unforgettable incidents as whitewashing a fence, swearing an oath in blood, and getting lost in a dark and labyrinthine cave. Below Tom Sawyer’s sunny surface lurk hints of a darker reality, of youthful innocence and naïveté confronting the cruelty, hypocrisy, and foolishness of the adult world—a theme that would become more pronounced in Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Despite such suggestions, Tom Sawyer remains Twain’s joyful ode to the endless possibilities of childhood.” (Barnes and Noble)

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Hemingway’s frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto -- of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized -- is one of the greatest moments in literary history. A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, *A Farewell to Arms*, written when he was 30 years old, represents a new romanticism for Hemingway. (from Barnes and Noble)

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway “The story of Robert Jordan, an American fighting with anti-fascist guerillas in the mountains of Spain, it tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, the tragic death of an ideal. It lives for us because of the great disillusionment that grew out of WW II, a war fought with such high hopes and concluded so cynically with a former ally gobbling up half of the Europe we hoped to liberate.” (from Barnes and Noble)

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway “Published in 1926 to explosive acclaim, *The Sun Also Rises* stands as perhaps the most impressive first novel ever written by an American writer. A roman à clef (a novel in which real persons or actual events figure under disguise) about a group of American and English expatriates on an excursion from Paris’s Left Bank to Pamplona for the July fiesta and its climactic bull fight, a journey from the center of a civilization spiritually bankrupted by the First World War to a vital, God-haunted world in which faith and honor have yet to lose their currency, the novel captured for the generation that would come to be called “Lost” the spirit of its age, and marked Ernest Hemingway as the preeminent writer of his time.” (from Simon and Schuster)

Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald “In *Tender Is The Night*, Fitzgerald deliberately set out to write the most ambitious and far-reaching novel of his career, experimenting radically with narrative conventions of chronology and point of view and drawing on early breakthroughs in psychiatry to enrich his account of the makeup and breakdown of character and culture.” (from Simon and Schuster)

A Separate Peace by John Knowles “Set at a boys’ school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.” (Scribner)

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams “This famous Williams play provokes insight and sympathy while revealing a genteel southern lady's remembered world. Few plays have explored the byways of the human heart as poignantly and poetically as Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.” (HaperCollins, Barnes and Noble)

Cannery Row by John Steinbeck “Drawing characters based on his memories of real inhabitants of Monterey, Steinbeck interweaves the stories of Doc, Henri, Mack, and his boys, in a world where only the fittest survive, in a novel that focuses on the acceptance of life as it is--a story at once humorous and poignant.” (Barnes and Noble)

East of Eden by John Steinbeck “Adam Trask came to California from the East to farm and raise his family on the new, rich land. But the birth of his twins, Cal and Aron, brings his wife to the brink of madness, and Adam is left alone to raise his boys to manhood. One boy thrives, nurtured by the love of all those around him; the other grows up in loneliness, enveloped by a mysterious darkness. First published in 1952, *East of Eden* is the work in which Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love's absence. A masterpiece of Steinbeck's later years, *East of Eden* is a powerful and vastly ambitious novel that is at once a family saga and a modern retelling of the Book of Genesis.” (Penguin Group)

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck “Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots, Steinbeck created a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its insistence on human dignity.” (Penguin Group)

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck “Raised on a ranch in northern California, Jody is well-schooled in the hard work and demands of a rancher's life. He is used to the way of horses, too; but nothing has prepared him for the special connection he will forge with Gabilan, a hot-tempered pony his father gives him. With Billy Buck, the hired hand, Jody tends and trains his horse, restlessly anticipating the moment he will sit high upon Gabilan's saddle. But when Gabilan falls ill, Jody discovers there are still lessons he must learn about the ways of nature and, particularly, the ways of man.” (Penguin Group)

Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck “Adopting the structure and themes of Arthurian legend, John Steinbeck creates a "Camelot" on a shabby hillside above Monterey on the California coast and peoples it with a colorful band of knights. As he chronicles the thoughts and emotions, temptations and lusts of the "knights", Steinbeck spins a tale as compelling as the famous legends of the Round Table.” (Penguin Group)