

Clearview Regional High School Summer Assignment 2021-22

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Syllabus 2021-22

Clearview Regional High School District is committed to supporting students' literacy mastery. It is our goal that every student obtains and refines critical reading skills and as importantly, we hope that every child becomes a lifelong reader. This optional summer reading text will provide a foundation upon which to place our introduction to the world of ideas and to all the important questions explored during the AP Literature course, a course dedicated to the discovery of engaging ideas through skill acquisition. While there will be no official assignment over the summer, this text will be studied in the early part of the school year as an in-depth study of the theme as we discuss and develop thematic statements to address various universal concepts and convictions pertaining to the human condition.

Course Instructor: Mrs. Lauren Schoudt, LSchoudt@clearviewregional.edu

Optional Summer Reading:

The Great Gatsby

Link to the online text: [The Great Gatsby](#)

*Please read the following announcement:

- The *Great Gatsby* will be our first full novel that the class will study together as we begin practice for the dominant skills that drive the AP Literature course. All students will be expected to read this novel by the **tentative** deadline of September 30th. Students may choose to read the novel over the summer if they would like to get an early start, or even finish the text.
- The link above will serve as the provided text to *The Great Gatsby* both over the summer and during the school year; however, students may choose to purchase a new or used copy of the novel. New and used copies of this book are available on [Amazon](#) and on [Barnes and Noble](#).

Suggested Critical Reading Notes:

During reading, students may choose to take notes that will help them later in the course as we practice critical reading for the purpose of developing themes in preparation for essay writing. This will be a requirement for all students once the school year begins and the novel is officially assigned, but students may choose to complete this ahead of time as an initial practice.

Notes are recommended in the following format:

- **Critical Observations**
- **Analytical Points**
- **Thematic Statements**

What's the difference between critical observations and analytical points?

Critical Observations

- are an awareness of some crucial element(s) of the text that is worthy of interpretation and to which you attach significance. A critical observation is documentation of that interpretation/significance, but is not linked to an overarching thematic concept or theme. These observations are grounded in critical approach of Formalism- (how writers use formal elements, language and plot structure, to create meaning.
 - o Example:
 - In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there is a disparity between the narrative voice of Scout and the characterization of Scout.
 - In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there is a disparity between moral courage and physical

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courage.

*The above examples are critical observations and not analytical points because the “so what,” the connection to an overarching thematic concept or theme, is not articulated.

Analytical Points

- articulate ideas that move beyond literal understanding and are guided by a link to an overarching concept or theme. These points are clearly documented by stating an interpretive idea and its relationship to the overarching concept or theme. These ideas are still grounded in Formalism, but may be developed using multiple critical approaches.
 - Example: In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the disparity between the narrative voice of Scout and the characterization of Scout **reveals that growth is found through reflection.**
 - Example: In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the disparity between moral courage and physical courage **reveals that serving justice may expose the injustices of a society at the cost of innocence.**

*Note that the boldfaced portion in the above example is thematic; thus, this statement is an analytical point. The thematic portion addresses the unanswered “so what” left out of the critical observat

Theme Review

Please click [here](#) to open a review document on theme and thematic statements. Please be sure you note the difference between the “basic” and “advanced” theme statements before trying to write your own.