

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS
READING LIST – (YOU MUST PURCHASE ACTUAL TEXTS FOR ANNOTATION
PURPOSES)

The Cellist of Sarajevo, Steven Galloway, *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey

Dear AP Lit Student,

Welcome to the world of literature. Next year should be both challenging and exciting, as I am very much looking forward to our classes. In order to gain a head start, I have chosen three works for you to read over the summer. Please read them thoroughly and **closely-take notes on what you read**.

As you will soon discover, Sparknotes, Cliffs Notes, eNotes, or any other summarizing source will **NOT** prepare you for the intensive work required for each piece of literature. I am assuming that you are taking this class because you **like to read**, and we all know that summaries are not great literature. That being said, in addition to reading thoroughly, the following must also be completed:

NOTE – each answer is expected to be a 500-word minimum - MLA format 12 pt font Times New Roman.

1. “Personal response.” These responses should be of a thoughtful, **analytical nature**, not a retelling of the books. For example, these can be a commentary about the subject covered or a questioning of the character’s actions, among other possibilities – more of a personal reaction to the writing and/or the subject matter.
2. “Analysis”–see the next page for details.

So, that’s it! It may seem like a lot, but it isn’t really, especially since we believe you will enjoy the readings. Be prepared with all written work **on the first day of school**. These will be graded. Tests on each of the works will be given as well during the first week. If you need to reach me over the summer, you may ask questions by email – sevans@pasco.k12.fl.us

To turn in this work you will use TurnItIn. This service includes a PLAGIARISM DETECTOR, so be sure that all of the work you choose to submit is your original...

Go to www.turnitin.com Create an account if you do not have one already, and join the following class:

2017-2018 AP Literature and Composition Turnitin.com

- 15129418 **Class ID**
- sevans0118 **Enrollment Password**

Note: Should you ever forget the class ID, it is the number to the left of the class name on your class list.

You can view or change your enrollment password by editing the class.

Click the class name to enter the class and get started creating assignments

You will see the assignments on turnitin.com when you join the class.

LITERARY ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT – ONE PER NOVEL

For each novel complete a statement of literary analysis (500 word minimum) using the following as guidelines for your analysis. By that, I would expect you'd address each of the following main areas, but you do not have to answer them in order, nor do you have to answer them all if they do not apply. I'm ultimately looking for an analysis of *the writing* and the effect *the writing* has on the presentation of the subject(s) of the novels, and the effect *the writing* has on the reader. **Be certain to include SPECIFIC evidence in the form of quotations from the novel to support your analysis (Claim, Data, Analysis).**

Be sure to make notes on these as you read the text, rather than wait until the end to try and go back and find quotations. This will also allow you to analyze how you, the reader, perceives the way the work evolves.

- 1. Theme or Thesis argument(s):** The writer's main statement. What argument or idea is being asserted through the work? What abstract concept is being made concrete through its representation in person, action, or image within the work? What generalization does the work make about the human condition? What is the author's purpose in writing? What is the thematic climax of the work and how is the thesis argument resolved? Where does the author leave us in terms of the theme?
- 2. Characterization:** Identify the protagonist, antagonist(s) and any foils or parallel characters. How is characterization generally achieved – direct/indirect (through action, dialogue, physical description, comments from other characters, direct telling by the author)? How does each key character illustrate some aspect of the theme? What quotes capture who the main characters are and the ideas their struggles are meant to represent?
- 3. Setting:** How is the story's time or place important to the conflict or thematic ideas of the novel? Also consider when and where the novel was written. Did any events inspire the author? What historical events or cultural developments helped influence or shape the novel? Is the novel in any way autobiographical? What should we know about the author in order to fully understand the work? What writers or thinkers influenced the author? Does the novel's plot follow a linear time structure? If not, how is it arranged chronologically? How does this plot structure influence the reader's interpretation of the meaning of the work as a whole?
- 4. Style:** Consider the language and attitude of the author. What seems to be the author's personality as demonstrated in the work? What can you say about the author's syntax (sentence structure)? Do sentences tend to be long, short, concrete, abstract, direct, indirect? What effect does this have on the reader and the theme? Look at the diction (word choice). Is it direct, forceful, pedantic, colloquial, vulgar, sensuous, satirical or learned? What is the tone of the writing? What seems to be the author's attitude about the theme? Try to come up with at least two unique adjectives that describe the author's tone/attitude. How does this tone help shape the theme? Does the author use symbols? What do they signify? Note the author's use of imagery. What colors, sounds, smells or other images are significant? Are any repeated as a motif? What figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, irony) does the author use? What is the thematic effect? What sonic rhetorical devices (alliteration, anaphora, hyperbole, metonymy, apostrophe, juxtaposition, litotes, diction, syntax, allusion, ambiguity, antimetabole) are used?
- 5. Point of View:** First person, third person objective, third person limited, third person omniscient. How did the narrative point of view impact the reader's understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole(theme)?