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Dr. David R. Schuler  
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Dear AP Literature and Composition Student:

We are excited that you are enrolled in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition next year! As an AP student, you are required to participate in independent summer reading.

Please choose at least one novel from the attached list (from either the contemporary or classic lists) and then complete the Summer Reading Portfolio. Attached you will find an explanation of this portfolio. You should be prepared to turn in your Summer Reading Portfolio on the first day of class in the fall. Since you'll submit this to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com), your portfolio should be typed. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact one of us via email at [alison.deberge@d214.org](mailto:alison.deberge@d214.org) or [gabriel.popovich@d214.org](mailto:gabriel.popovich@d214.org).

If you are interested in getting a head start on any of the other novels we'll read for AP Literature, here is the rest of the reading list: *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Sula*, *King Lear*, *The Stranger*, and *Wuthering Heights*. You will be provided copies of these novels, but you are certainly welcome to purchase your own if you want to be able to annotate as you read. In addition to these longer works, we'll also read and analyze a variety of short stories and poems as part of our study.

Have a safe and restful summer. We are looking forward to seeing you in class!

Sincerely,

Alison DeBerge  
AP Literature Teacher

Gabriel Popovich  
AP Literature Teacher

## Summer Reading Portfolio Assignment

For your summer reading assignment, you will create a portfolio of texts and writings that explore a theme derived from the summer reading novel of your choosing. One goal of this assignment is for you to engage not only with the novel of your choosing, but also with various other kinds of texts. A second goal is for you to explore different representations of a theme across multiple texts. This portfolio will ask you to focus on the following AP Lit skills:

- Develop a defensible claim about an interpretation or literature
- Develop commentary that establishes and explains relationships among textual evidence

### Portfolio Components:

- A fully developed paragraph (roughly 300 words) examining one theme from the novel. This paragraph should include
  - a defensible claim about a theme from your summer reading novel. This defensible theme claim asks you to identify a theme from the novel AND make an argument about what the author seems to be communicating about that theme.
  - support for that claim with textual evidence (description of key scenes, analysis of characters, explanation of important details) from the novel.
- Three complementary texts (poem, visual art, film, song, another novel, etc.) that explore the same theme.
- For each of the three complementary texts, write a short paragraph (150-200 words), in which you explain the thematic connection between that text and the novel.

### Support:

- Themes are ideas or larger messages that authors develop through the plot, language, and characterization of the novel. Writers might explore themes around subjects such as love, death/mortality, faith/religion, family, race, gender roles, education, alienation, betrayal/loyalty, violence, crime, or friendship.
- A sample portfolio might look like this:
  - Text: *The Great Gatsby* (note: you can't read *The Great Gatsby* for this assignment)
  - Theme (300-word response): Genuine love is impossible in a culture that first and foremost values money and status
  - Complementary Text One (150-200 word response): the film *The Wolf of Wall Street* tells the story of a man incapable of forming loving relationships because of his greed.
  - Complementary Text Two (150-200 word response): the novel *My Brilliant Friend* deals with a character, Lila, forced to marry a man out of financial concerns
  - Complementary Text Three (150-200 word response): the song "Gold Digger" by Kanye West is about how some people demand that potential partners have money and status.



**DIRECTIONS:** Please choose one (1) novel from this list to read over the summer. After you've read, complete the Reading Portfolio Assignment for that book.

We strongly encourage you to read something from the "Contemporary Novels" list, but you are welcome to choose from the "Classics" list instead. Either way, this should be a book you haven't read before. Take time to research a few of the novels before you choose. *We want you to find a book that you'll enjoy reading and that lines up with your interests as much as possible!*

If there's a work of fiction you want to read that's not on this list, contact Ms. Deberge or Mr. Popovich for permission. Know that your choice must be geared toward an adult audience (no YA fiction), be fictional, and be at least 200 pages long.

D = Ms. Deberge highly recommend  
I = International author and/or setting  
Q = LGBTQ author and/or subject matter  
W = Wartime

H = Historical  
P = Mr. Popovich highly recommend  
S = Sci-Fi/Speculative

### **CONTEMPORARY NOVELS:**

A Gentleman in Moscow (Amor Towles) D  
A Visit from the Goon Squad (Jennifer Egan)  
All the Light We Cannot See (Anthony Doerr) I/W/H  
Atonement (Ian McEwan) I / W / P  
Cloud Atlas (David Mitchell) S / P  
Everything I Never Told You (Celeste Ng)  
Everything is Illuminated (Jonathan Safran Foer)  
Exit West (Mohsin Hamid) I  
Gilead (Marilynne Robinson)  
Her Body and Other Parties (Carmen Maria Machado) Q  
Kite Runner (Khaled Hosseini) I  
Less (Andrew Sean Greer) Q  
Little Fires Everywhere (Celeste Ng)  
Manhattan Beach (Jennifer Egan) H / W  
Middlesex (Jeffrey Eugenides) Q  
My Brilliant Friend (Elena Ferrante) H / I / P  
Oryx and Crake (Margaret Atwood) S  
Prep (Curtis Sittenfeld)

Purple Hibiscus (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) I  
Redeployment (Phil Klay)  
Salvage the Bones (Jesmyn Ward)  
Sing, Unburied, Sing (Jesmyn Ward)  
Station Eleven (Emily St. John Mandel) S  
Sympathizer (Viet Thanh Nguyen)  
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay  
(Michael Chabon) H / Q  
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (Junot Diaz)  
The Corrections (Jonathan Franzen)  
The Goldfinch (Donna Tartt)  
The Great Believers (Rebecca Makkai) Q / H / D  
The Nickel Boys (Colson Whitehead) H  
The Nix (Nathan Hill) H  
The Orphan Master's Son (Adam Johnson)  
The Overstory (Richard Powers)  
The Plot Against America (Philip Roth)  
The Road (Cormac McCarthy) S  
The Underground Railroad (Colson Whitehead) H

The Vegetarian (Han Kang) I  
There There (Tommy Orange)

White Teeth (Zadie Smith) H, P

**CLASSIC NOVELS:**

1984 (George Orwell) S  
A Clockwork Orange (Anthony Burgess) S  
A Prayer for Owen Meany (John Irving)  
Blood Meridian (Cormac McCarthy) H  
Brave New World (Aldous Huxley) S  
Catch-22 (Joseph Heller) W  
Go Tell it on the Mountain (James Baldwin) P  
Great Expectations (Charles Dickens)  
Invisible Man (Ralph Ellison)  
Heart of Darkness (Joseph Conrad)  
Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte)  
Kindred (Octavia Butler) S  
Lolita (Vladimir Nabokov)  
One Hundred Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia  
Marquez) I / P

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Ken Kesey)  
Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)  
Ragtime (E. L. Doctorow) H, P  
Slaughterhouse-five (Kurt Vonnegut) S / W  
Song of Solomon (Toni Morrison) H  
Sophie's Choice (William Styron) H  
The Awakening (Kate Chopin)  
The Catcher in the Rye (J. D. Sallinger)  
The Left Hand of Darkness (Ursula K. Le Guin) S  
The Plague (Albert Camus) I  
The Sun Also Rises (Ernest Hemingway)  
Their Eyes Were Watching God (Zora Neale  
Hurstons) D  
White Noise (Don DeLillo)