

Dear English scholar:

Welcome to the exhilarating world of serious literary study! In **Advanced Placement Literature & Composition (AP English 12)**, we will read, analyze, and enjoy (I hope) the finest literature mankind has produced. We will study a great deal of it in all genres, especially novels, plays, and poetry, exploring masterpieces produced by both male and female authors, ancient and modern authors, and writers of diverse ethnic, national, and cultural backgrounds. We'll have two goals in this course, in order of importance: 1) to open our minds to all that these classics have to offer us---morally, intellectually, and socially; 2) to earn you college credit by passing the AP English Literature exam. In order to achieve the latter goal, *it is necessary to read and write at the collegiate level*. This will require a tremendous amount of dedication on your part, as many of the texts are challenging and there is little tolerance for careless errors in your written work. You need to *earn* the college credit by reading voraciously and writing well. If you are up for the challenge, I can promise you a stimulating learning environment. Our mode of learning will be guided discussion, not lecture. Class participation during discussions is vital on your part. Try to be as active in class as you can, both asking and answering questions.

Careful and active summer reading is the first step on our quest for wisdom in AP English 12. You need to read two classic novels over the summer--Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston, and Lord of the Flies, by William Golding--and complete the accompanying assignment for both (below). Their Eyes Were Watching God can be challenging reading, because it was written in **dialect**, which means the way people actually spoke in different places, in different times. But once you get used to the dialect, it's much easier reading. You'll turn in your summer reading assignment and be tested on both books (factual recall of plot, characters, settings, quotes, etc.) during the **first week of the school year**. Then we'll spend a week or so discussing each novel in depth and your reactions to both (answering questions you may have, going over the deeper aspects of it, such as themes, symbols, etc.). Before we begin new reading in September, we'll have a unit test on what was discussed in class about both novels. My advice to you is to try to make personal connections to each story, even if it at first seems strange or unfamiliar. What do you find most interesting? Why?

Enjoy your summer and enjoy your summer reading. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Mr. Endres

PROJECT: You are to keep a **READING JOURNAL** while reading both books. Your journal can be either a Google Doc or, if you prefer physical pen/pencil and paper, an actual "marble-covered" composition notebook, or any type of notebook. You need a minimum of one journal entry for each chapter you read. Each entry should start with the date and the chapter number and be *at least 8 sentences long*. If you're responding to something very specific in the chapter, include a quote and page number as well. You're free to write on anything that you find interesting, impressive, or even challenging in the book you're currently reading. If you have trouble coming up with something to write about, here are a few suggestions to stimulate your thinking: →

- Connections to your life (explain how you can personally relate to something specific in that particular chapter)
- Connections to history or current events
- Connections to pop culture (something in the chapter that reminds you of a particular movie, TV show, song, meme, etc.)
- Connections to other works of literature (explain how something in the chapter reminds you of another story you've read)
- Literary elements and techniques (noticing when the writer used one and then trying to figure out *why* the writer used it---what effect does the LE/LT have on the reader?)
- Noticing things that are repeated in the story, and trying to figure out why
- Possible themes: a statement in a chapter that seems so true, important, or even profound
- Things you disagree with or even take exception to
- Anything else you can think of; be creative in your thinking and journal entries