

To: Pre-AP English I students 2018-2019
May 2018



You should understand that Pre-AP English I is a rigorous course. A *serious* commitment to reading and doing other assignments outside of class will be necessary for you to be successful in this course. The expectation is that you will be organized, responsible, and committed in dealing with any assignment or project. If you are not willing to be responsible for doing the work carefully and on time, you should reconsider taking this class.

Writing

In Pre-AP English I, you will write four process-papers per year. The creative paper is based on a STAAR format and prompt. You will analyze two novels. The largest paper is a research paper where you are expected to write a thesis and adhere to that thesis with documentation and your own words. We always use MLA format. Additionally, you will write timed, in-class essays in which you analyze an author's style in a piece of literature. Writing is a fundamental part of this course.

Reading

Every good English course has a strong reading program. Reading gives us a basis for class discussion and analysis. Reading helps us build critical thinking skills. In Pre-AP English, you are required to read two books during the summer. Once the school year begins, you will read the equivalent of five novels between August and May. Much of the required reading will be done outside of class. Many of the works that we read come from College Board's list of 101 Great Books Recommended for College-Bound readers. You can find this list at www.collegeboard.com.

Homework

Pre-AP English I is more than an advanced course. It is the foundation upon which we base our AP English courses. Students in AP English courses will be taking tests that may earn them college credit. I encourage you to accept the challenge of this rigorous curriculum. I also want to prepare you for my very high expectations.

It is important that you keep up with all of your classes. You can expect as much as three hours of homework each week in Pre-AP English I. Oftentimes, that homework is reading, but regardless of the content of the homework, it must be done on time. **I DO NOT TAKE LATE WORK.** It is important that you learn this early, as it is often a costly lesson to learn.

Remind101

In order for me to be able to contact you over the summer to send reminders, it would be very helpful if you would sign up for the class Remind page. Through this technology, I will be able to send you updates and pertinent information easily. **Please text @papeng1819 to 81010 to sign up.**

As part of the curriculum for Pre-AP English I at Hallsville High School, each student planning to take this course in the fall must complete selected reading assignments over the summer. The first selection will be tested during the first few class days at the beginning of school in August. A composition related to this work will also be assigned during the first week of class. This additional work is required for two reasons: 1) it allows time for additional novels to be read that all students will be familiar with, and 2) the composition will provide a planned writing sample to assess for each student at the beginning of the school year. Students already will have these works as background information as the course begins next fall, and we hope that this background knowledge will then enhance study of other works during the course.

These are the required summer reading works:

***A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry (play)**
and
a self-selected novel that meets the following criteria:
Genre: Young Adult Fiction
Minimum Page Length: 250+ Pages
Written after 2000
NOT made into a movie
NOT been read before by the student

Please find below a list of summer reading *possibilities* for the **self-selected novel**. Note that you are not obligated to make a selection from this list, but your selection must meet the criteria above.

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco Stork

Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi

The First Time She Drowned by Kerry Kletter

The Selection by Kiera Cass

The Secret Place by Tana French

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Brain Jack by Brian Falkner

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson

Special Note: You may want to consider going online and visiting **Goodreads.com** or **Amazon.com** for reviews, rating, and information that will assist you in your self-selected novel.

These books may be purchased at Barron's Books, Hastings, or Books a Million in Longview. You might also look at the library or half-priced bookstores in town. You will want to purchase an actual paper copy of the text so that you can use it in class when school starts. I will not allow you to bring a Kindle, Nook, or iPad. Please return the **SIGNED** form on the attached page to your current English teacher before **the end of the year**. If you have any questions, you can reach me at the email or phone number listed below. Have a good summer. I look forward to seeing you next year!

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Response Journal

You will be expected to keep a Reader Response Journal. This is a place where you will write notes about what you are reading throughout the year. Your journal should be a standard size spiral or composition book. Please put your name in it. In order to better your understanding of the summer reading, I have included some questions to be answered in a response journal. These need to be completed and brought to **the first day of class. The journal will be a major grade.**

****Remember, you will answer these questions for both *A Raisin in the Sun* and a self-selected novel that meets the criteria.****

In each of the works, the main character will undergo a quest.

1. Identify what kind of quest/quests the major character undertakes. Does he/she successfully complete these journeys?
2. Identify the conflicts – both external and internal – this major character meets and must attempt to overcome in an effort to overcome these conflicts.
3. Explain what traits these same characters must possess to overcome these conflicts. Is he/she successful?

4. Write a definition for the following terms:

Static character

Dynamic character

In a paragraph of 5-6 sentences, explain how the major character in each book is either a static character or dynamic character.

5. Theme means the truth, the lesson, and/or the moral the author incorporates into his/her writing. It is the underlying meaning in the author's writing. Theme makes the book relevant and significant to the reader; the novel entertains us, but if one looks beyond the lines of the text, the book or play can also teach us something important about life. List any themes you see in the work and write a quote from the book that supports that idea. Explain if necessary.

6. Write a definition for the following terms:

Simile

Metaphor

Personification

Symbolism

Then find an example from each book. Copy the example into the journal using quotation marks and put the page number at the end. Why do you think the author uses this literary device? HINT – Each author does not always use the same literary device for the same reasons.

Name of student _____

I have received the summer reading list for Pre-AP English I and make the commitment to read these works before school begins in August 2018. I also understand that Pre-AP English I requires a serious commitment to challenging reading and writing expectations, and I am willing to make that commitment for the summer reading and the 2018-2019 school year.

Signature of student

Date

I have read the information about Pre-AP English I and understand the level of commitment to the work that is needed for my student to be successful in this course.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date