

**Advanced Placement English 12/ English Literature and Composition
Summer 2017 Reading Selections & Requirements**

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Required reading (2 novels):

You are responsible for obtaining these novels. Please tag/highlight text for ease in discussion.

1) *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (Everyone must read this!)

2)+ one of the following dystopian novels:

- ***1984* by George Orwell** (available for check out)
- ***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley** (available for check out)
- ***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood** (Most shocking one – not owned by the school! Not only am I aware of HULU, but I will have watched it before I see you. Make sure you read – there is no replacement.)

(Choose your own dystopia – but consider the advantage of even groups for activities. Please don't choose one you have already read, but feel free to read all of them.)

Writing/Activities on these selections:

For both books, you must create a two-column passage journal (also a feature of Ms. Sharp's AP Eng 11).

For *A Prayer for Owen Meany*: Select 8 passages to record and interpret/analyze.

*Choose passages that link to the thematic ideas of **characterization, religious belief, literature, and/or fate.**

For the dystopian selection, select 4 passages to record and interpret/analyze.

*Choose passages that link to the thematic ideas of **rebellion, intimacy, and/or similarity to current societal concerns/trends.**

Passage lengths may vary from one-two rich sentences to a few paragraphs; choose rich pieces of text that hold thematic or contextual significance, reveal character development, and display literary devices or style techniques. Reveal what you observe in the passage (include the effective use of language devices) and provide commentary/discussion/interpretation.

This journal, recorded in a spiral notebook or composition book, is one that you will continue to maintain throughout the school year and use to review the content of works for tests in class and as the AP test approaches. If you took AP English 11, you may continue in the same notebook; please do not discard your journal(s) from that class, as these may also help you review literature on the AP 12 test. By June 15th, I will post these directions on the GHS website.

**Journals are due on the first day of class,
but I will gladly accept them at Open House in August for bonus points.**

In the first few class sessions...

- Expect an AP writing prompt pertaining to one of these selections on the first day of class.
- Be prepared for discussions and creative activities on the selections.

We will start with Irving's novel, with the dystopias quickly following.

I am excited about getting to know you over the next year. Literature is life...and we have a lot of living to do. I'll see you in September!

Two-Column Journal – Example (these are a bit short, but will fit on this page)

Quote	Discussion
<p><i>"He thought it very discouraging that his wife, who was the sole object of his existence, evinced so little interest in things which concerned him, and valued so little his conversation" (6).</i></p>	<p><i>diction: "his" 5 times, "object" !</i></p> <p><i>The author seems to be prejudicing the reader through word choice. What he says about his wife seems to describe his approach to her concerns rather than the opposite. This husband in his self-pitying words conveys that his wife exists for <u>his</u> concerns/comfort/pleasures. Whether he values <u>her</u> conversation or company is unclear; his thoughts lack any examples of his understanding of her.</i></p> <p><i>Watch gender/sex roles for a critical approach in literary essay??</i></p>
<p><i>"The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in the abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation" (17).</i></p>	<p><i>effective personification</i></p> <p><i>parallel structure: draws reader into the water, so to speak; emphasizes hypnotic "spell"</i></p> <p><i>sibilance: soothes, mimics waves?</i></p> <p><i>Water here seems to hold symbolic qualities as is often true in literature. (Watch this image!)</i></p> <p><i>The sensuous nature/wording seems to contrast the "formal" behaviors of the characters visiting the sea. Their careful manners, their conventional behaviors and patterns, hide their complexity as individuals and their true passions. The sea allows them "alone time" to ponder their true inclinations. It also indicates, however, the solitary nature of the human condition.</i></p> <p><i>After thought: In the end, we see that this passage foreshadows the ending directly; the sea holds the protagonist's profound solution to internal conflicts from the start.</i></p>

English 12 AP: Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

Baldwin

Read the following books:

- *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand
- *1984* by George Orwell

As you read, tag in each of the novels *at least three passages* that are worthy of analysis and interpretation on any one of the following **thematic perspectives or strands**:

historical/political
psychological
religious/philosophical
cultural
artistic

Writing Assignment: Complete and submit two writings on the first day of class! Please do not do any research in order to complete this assignment; I want to see your own analysis skills and expression. Keep all of these passages marked for discussion, but choose one of your marked passages from each novel for a 2-3 paragraph detailed analysis to submit as an initial writing sample. (Note: The passage with page number must precede your analysis of it. Please double-space your writing, but single-space the novel passage that precedes it.) Concentrate on these questions as you write:

- What techniques (i.e., language/ literary devices) and diction does the writer use to convey his or her views on and attitudes toward the subject matter?
- How does the passage reflect the thematic perspective/strand as well as the concerns of the novel at large?

By the way, we will be discussing *The Fountainhead* first. I look forward to seeing you in September!