

## AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading

Welcome to the world of Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. As a teacher and a reader, I am thrilled to be teaching this class because of my own passion for and excitement about literature, and I sincerely hope that you will find your own enjoyment in our discussions.

You will read a lot. If reading isn't a habit of yours, you might consider a different senior English course. For summer reading there are three books of necessary background information and one novel. We strongly recommend that you purchase your own copies so that you can annotate as you read; reading journals are just not the same.

- Selections from the *Bible*: Genesis and Exodus (from the Old Testament) and the Gospel according to Matthew. Choose from either the King James, New International, or Oxford Revised versions. A word about the *Bible*: Because the literature of Western Culture draws so commonly on knowledge of the *Bible*, and because so many Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century lack that background knowledge, we have added selections from the *Bible* to the summer reading. **Realize that you should NOT read these selections in terms of faith but rather those of literature.**
- An introductory text on Greek/Roman mythology—we recommend any of the texts by Bullfinch or Hamilton
- *The Poisonwood Bible*—Barbara Kingsolver

Expect a test over the biblical and mythological readings within the first week of your return and a major, timed writing assignment concerning the novel within the first three weeks.

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Students in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition need to be prepared to be challenged both in spirit and in mind by what they read. The texts we choose throughout the year are adult literature, typically found in the college courses which the AP program approximates. However, understanding the context of works is important to putting them in perspective. This readily happens in the classroom, where the teacher can create a context for learning and discussing. To prepare you for summer reading, when we are not together in class, a few contextual words about this summer's selections are in order:

*The Poisonwood Bible* is written for adults and is not targeted toward adolescents. You may encounter themes, situations, or language that may make you uncomfortable; in particular the novel contains violence and mentions sexual situations. It is always for a purpose and never used in a prurient fashion. You may visit Novelist through Galileo (<http://www.galileo.usg.edu/>) to preview the text. If you are concerned about the novel or other summer readings, please contact either Ms. Cooney at the email below.

If you have any concerns, please contact Ms. Cooney through email at: [cooney@fultonschools.org](mailto:cooney@fultonschools.org). Before school lets out, you can also see me in my room (F123) or leave a note in the main office. I would prefer to speak with you rather than have you start the school year being uncomfortable.

Kimberly Cooney