

AP English IV Summer Reading

Teacher: Mrs. Shannon Bailey

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Please feel free to contact me during the summer if you have questions about this assignment. This information will also be posted on my blog at <http://toddcentralenglish.weebly.com>.

Purpose: To improve students' vocabulary through challenging reading selections; to provide the teacher with a sample of writing in which to pre-assess students.

Task: Choose from the following list and read your selection. Then answer the question below in a well developed five paragraph, three-point essay. A rubric is attached for the question.

Specifications: Your essay must be typed and double-spaced. You must use an easy-to-read 12 point font. When citing your selection and any other outside sources, you must use MLA. For help regarding citation formatting, please visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>.

Grading Requirements: Your essay is due the **first day** (August 5, 2015) of the 2015-2016 school year, and it is worth a total of 100 points. There are no exceptions to this due date!

Standards Assessed:

- a. Choose materials for independent reading on the basis of specific criteria (e.g., personal interest, own reading level, knowledge of authors and literary or nonliterary forms)
- b. Read independently for a variety of purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, to gain information, to perform a task)
- c. Read increasingly challenging whole texts in a variety of literary (e.g., poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction) and nonliterary (e.g., textbooks, news articles, memoranda) forms

Choice of Works:

1984 by George Orwell

The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Les Miserables by Victor Hugo

Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Medea by Euripides

Please note: These will not be provided for you. You must obtain your own copy of your selection.

Prompt:

“And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

Choose a selection from your summer reading list. Determine how the cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

Do not merely summarize the plot.

Plagiarism Warning: It will be tempting to use informational and summative websites to “supplement” your reading. Beware of **relying** on these sources. Your grade will be based on originality and insight about the issues and themes in your novel. If they are used, you must cite these sources correctly.