



WHERE *Brilliance* BEGINS

AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading

The information below describes your summer reading and essay assignments, the theme of which is freedom of expression.

The summer reading program is an important feature of the A.P. English program, and it serves two functions: 1) to keep you active as readers, expanding your horizons, and 2) to forestall brain death through writing about what you have read. This important requirement will ease your transition into the senior year.

For each of the **3** works that you read, you will write on one of the essay topics below. Use no topic more than once, but choose which work to use for the topics. (Length: 600 words each)

The following is a list of the 28 most censored books in American schools and libraries for the period 1965-1982. In most cases the objection has been to the IDEA in the book, not language or violence. Choose 3 of the works from the list below, excluding any that you have read before (as well as those in **bold**, which have been taught in your previous English classes). In addition, you may not select more than 1 works in *italics* (they are not high caliber stuff).

The Catcher in the Rye

Go Ask Alice

Of Mice and Men

Lord of the Flies

Forever

Our Bodies, Ourselves

My Darling, My Hamburger

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

J.D. Salinger

Anon

John Steinbeck

William Golding

Judy Blume

Boston Women's Health Book Collective

Paul Zindel

Mark Twain

To Kill a Mockingbird

Brave New World

Manchild in the Promised Land

Slaughterhouse Five

The Learning Tree

Black Like Me

The Lottery

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

The Scarlet Letter

A Separate Peace

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Johnny Got His Gun

Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Deliverance

The Good Earth

*A Hero Ain't Nothing But A Sandwich**The Exorcist*

A Farewell to Arms

*It's OK If You Don't Love Me***Harper Lee**

Aldous Huxley

Claude Brown

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Gordon Parks

John Howard Griffin

Shirley Jackson

Alexander Solzheinitzsyn

Nathaniel Hawthorne

John Knowles

Ken Kesey

Dalton Trumbo

Anne Frank

Maya Angelou

James Dickey

Pearl Buck

*Alice Childress**William Peter Blatty*

Ernest Hemingway

*Norma Klein***Essay Topics** (Generally, these are previous AP literature topics):

I. Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader's or audience's views. Avoid plot summary.

II. Frequently in novels, an important character violates the laws, the conventions, the rules of conduct of a society. In presenting such characters and actions, the author's purpose may be (1) to arouse our sympathy for the character who is violating the rules of society; (2) to divide our interest sharply between sympathy for the character and desire to support the principles of society; (3) to arouse our "satiric mirth" at the character who is violating the principles of society; and (4) to laugh with the character at the conventions that are being violated. Write a well-organized essay, illustrating in some detail two or more of these purposes.

III. Choose a character from a work of recognized literary merit and write an essay in which you (a) briefly describe the standards of the fictional society in which the character exists and (b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards. In your essay do not merely summarize the plot.

IV. In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Choose a work of literary merit that confronts the reader or audience with a scene or scenes of violence. In a well-organized essay, explain how the scene or scenes contribute to the meaning of the complete work. Avoid plot summary.

V. A critic has said that one important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. Select a work that produces this "healthy confusion." Write an essay in which you explain the sources of the "pleasure and disquietude" experienced by the readers of the work. Do not base your essay on a movie, television program, or other adaptation of a work.

WILD CARD: Omit any one of the above questions and write this one instead. Imagine that the book you have read is being challenged by people who want it removed from the curriculum. Write a speech to the Manchester School Committee in which you defend the work and explain why its message and its content belong in the curriculum.