

AP Literature & Composition (11th grade) - Summer Work

In preparation for the adventure of AP English Literature and Composition, your assignments this summer involve reading, writing, and learning vocabulary. Try your very best to enjoy these two works, which were written as entertainment for the reader. Read by the lake, in a cozy chair, with your favorite cool drink! No audio books and no Internet use! Use a dictionary if you don't know a word.

Tasks: Read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and then complete the corresponding assignment for each. Finally, create flashcards for the attached AP English Literature terms.

A. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (ISBN: 978-1586176990)

Brontë writes *Jane Eyre* during the Victorian era, although she is also influenced by the Romantic movement. *Jane Eyre* is a bildungsroman, which means it is a coming of age story, telling Jane's story from her early childhood into adulthood. Jane has a wild life, and this summer you'll just be reading about her life when she was young until she was about your age. Jane goes through a lot, and doesn't always handle things perfectly (just like us). Try to empathize with her and watch how she grows and changes. We'll finish her story in class.

In the first week of school, you will have a short test where you will write your three favorite quotes and answer other questions about the text. Later, we'll have a 5-7 minute conversation, during which I'll check annotations and ask questions about the text, especially about your chosen quotes.

B. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (ISBN: 9781586172633)

Jane Austen writes *Pride and Prejudice* during the Romantic era, but is it a Romantic work? Austen is writing in the genre of comedy, so make sure to use what you know about genres to interpret the text. This is also supposed to be humorous social commentary, so look for irony and humor. Also watch for how Austen changes the tone and syntax of her writing to reflect different speakers and even descriptions of different people. In some ways, this is a book about nothing, but in other ways, it's a book about everything!

In the first week of school, you will have a short test where you will write your three favorite quotes and answer other questions about the text. Later, we'll have a 5-7 minute conversation, during which I'll check annotations and ask questions about the text, especially about your chosen quotes.

3. Make flashcards of these terms on 3 x 5 index cards; you'll use these cards all year. Leave room on your cards to add examples that you'll encounter throughout the reading during the school year. (*This assignment is worth 30 points*)

i) **Memorize the definitions listed below for a quiz. It will be matching.**

1. **Allergy**—story or poem in which characters, settings, and events stand for other people or events or abstract ideas or qualities. Example: *Animal Farm*, *Dante's Inferno*.
2. **Alliteration**—repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
3. **Allusion**—an indirect reference to something in history or previous literature.
4. **Apostrophe**—a poetic phrase or speech made that is addressed to a subject that is not literally present in the literary work or poem

5. **Ambiguity**—the intentional expression of an idea in such a way that more than one meaning is suggested.
6. **Connotation**—the associations and emotional overtones attached to a word or phrase in addition to its strict dictionary definition. Example: The word “home” suggests comfort and security, though it doesn’t denote either of those.
7. **Couplet**—two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme.
8. **Denotation**—the dictionary definition of a word.
9. **Diction**—word choice. *Concrete diction* refers to words that are specific and “show” the reader a mental picture. *Abstract diction* refers to words that are general and “tell” something without a picture. Note the difference. Abstract “telling” diction: The young child, unaccustomed to strangers, was frightened by new people or new situations. Concrete “showing” diction: When the doorbell unexpectedly rang, the tiny boy abandoned his hot fudge sundae, bolted into the pantry, and hoped that the stranger would not hear the pounding of his heart.”
10. **Epic**—A long narrative poem, written in heightened language, recounting the deeds of a heroic character who embodies the values of a particular society.
11. **Epiphany**—a moment of enlightenment or heightened awareness when an ordinary object or scene is suddenly transformed into something that possesses significance.
12. **Foil**—a character who acts as a contrast to another character.
13. **Hyperbole**—exaggeration for effect. “You could have knocked me over with a feather.”
14. **Imagery**—the use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a thing, a place, or an experience.
15. **Irony**: A discrepancy between appearances and reality.
16. **Verbal Irony or Sarcasm**—Saying one thing and meaning another.
17. **Situational Irony**—discrepancy between what is expected to happen, or what would be appropriate to happen, and what actually happens.
18. **Dramatic Irony**—failure of a character to see or understand what is obvious to the audience.
19. **Metaphor**—a comparison between a tangible thing and an intangible reality
20. **Motif**—a recurring image, verbal pattern, or character that supports the main theme of a literary work.
21. **Oxymoron**—a form of paradox that places opposing words side by side. “Sweet sorrow.” “Living death.” “Open secret.” “Definite maybe.”
22. **Paradox**—contradictory statement that contains some element of truth. “Less is more.”
23. **Parallelism (Parallel Structure)**—repetition of grammatical form and function.
24. **Parody**—a work that makes fun of another work by imitating some aspect of the writer’s style.
25. **Personification**—giving human qualities to an abstraction or non-human object.
26. **Symbol**—a physical person, place, or thing that represents something else.
27. **Syntax**—the order of words in a sentence, sentence structure. An author’s distinctive form of sentence structure.
28. **Theme**—the insight about human life that is revealed in a literary work.
29. **Tone**—the attitude the writer takes toward the subject of a work, the characters in it, or the audience; revealed through diction, figurative language, and organization.
30. **Understatement**—a statement that says less than what it means. Opposite of hyperbole. Hyperbole exaggerates; understatement minimizes. Often used to make an ironic point. For example: In the midst of a howling gale in the “Deadliest Catch,” the boat captain says, “It’s a bit breezy.”