

Dear Students,

To prepare for your AP Literature and Composition course, your summer assignment is to read and annotate *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, as well as your choice of one of the other works listed below. The works vary greatly by theme, date of publishing, and page length. Since this assignment is intended to expand your reading experience, please do not select any work that you have previously read. The following descriptions have been taken from barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.

<p><b><i>JANE EYRE</i> by Charlotte Bronte (required)</b></p> <p>Immediately recognized as a masterpiece when it was first published in 1847, Charlotte Bronte's <i>Jane Eyre</i> is an extraordinary coming-of-age story featuring one of the most independent and strong-willed female protagonists in all of literature. Poor and plain, Jane Eyre begins life as a lonely orphan in the household of her hateful aunt. Despite the oppression she endures at home, and the later torture of boarding school, Jane manages to emerge with her spirit and integrity unbroken. She becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she finds herself falling in love with her employer—the dark, impassioned Mr. Rochester. But an explosive secret tears apart their relationship, forcing Jane to face poverty and isolation once again.</p>	<p><b><i>CRIME AND PUNISHMENT</i> by Fyodor Dostoyevsky</b></p> <p>Poor and in desperate circumstances, Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov plots the murder of a pawnbroker to steal what he considers her ill-gotten gains. To his mind, he is justified in eliminating an unscrupulous person who thrives on the misfortunes of others and uses her money for more benevolent purposes. When his well-wrought plans go awry, Raskolnikov finds himself little better off financially, and now, a murderer. Wracked with guilt, he finds himself torn between confessing his crime to clear his conscience, or following the path that providence seems to be shaping to help him get away with the perfect crime.</p>
<p><b><i>INVISIBLE MAN</i> by Ralph Ellison</b></p> <p>A first novel by an unknown writer, it remained on the bestseller list for sixteen weeks, won the National Book Award for fiction, and established Ralph Ellison as one of the key writers of the century. The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.</p>	<p><b><i>BRAVE NEW WORLD</i> by Aldous Huxley</b></p> <p>A novel written in 1931 by and published in 1932. Set in London of AD 2540 (632 A.F.—"After Ford"—in the book), the novel anticipates developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation, and classical conditioning that combine profoundly to change society.</p>

<p><i>A TALE OF TWO CITIES by Charles Dickens</i></p> <p>In the tumultuous backdrop of revolutionary France and the contrasting calm of London, Charles Dickens weaves a gripping tale of love, sacrifice, and redemption. Set against the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, the narrative follows the fates of Charles Darnay, a French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a dissipated English lawyer. Their lives, intertwined by love and friendship, resonate amidst themes of resurrection and transformation.</p> <p>As Dickens delves into his characters' personal tragedies and triumphs, he also paints a vivid picture of a society on the brink, capturing the chaos, violence, and passion of an era. At once a historical epic and a personal drama, "A Tale of Two Cities" is Dickens' exploration of duality – the dual nature of humanity, the contrast between light and dark, love and hate, and, most prominently, the cities of London and Paris.</p>	<p><i>OF MICE AND MEN by John Steinbeck</i></p> <p><i>A controversial tale of friendship and tragedy during the Great Depression</i></p> <p>They are an unlikely pair: George is "small and quick and dark of face"; Lennie, a man of tremendous size, has the mind of a young child. Yet they have formed a "family," clinging together in the face of loneliness and alienation.</p> <p>Laborers in California's dusty vegetable fields, they hustle work when they can, living a hand-to-mouth existence. For George and Lennie have a plan: to own an acre of land and a shack they can call their own. When they land jobs on a ranch in the Salinas Valley, the fulfillment of their dream seems to be within their grasp. But even George cannot guard Lennie from the provocations of a flirtatious woman, nor predict the consequences of Lennie's unswerving obedience to the things George taught him.</p>
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### Annotating a LITERARY Text

**AP English Literature and Composition** has a different focus than AP English Language. In AP Lit, instead of identifying the rhetorical devices that an author uses to produce an effect on the reader, students focus on literary analysis and the author's use of literary devices to convey a theme.

As you read these two novels, your goal is to look *beyond the plot* for the layers of meaning created by the author through the use of various literary devices. This type of close reading (aka annotating) involves interacting with the text.

Every so often (at least every 3-4 pages), *stop and record your observations* about different elements that you see in the novel. (see the list of elements that follows) However, don't simply note the existence of these elements; write a few sentences to elaborate on your observations and connect those observations to the points that the author is making about humanity and life, including points about psychological, historical, political, and/or social issues. If you are writing these observations on a separate piece of paper, provide specific examples and quotes (always follow a quote with the page number) to support them.

Whenever you annotate, you should consider the following elements / devices:

- ☐ **Characterization:** A character is a person or animal that takes part in the action of a literary work. As you read, make note of the protagonist, the antagonist and the names and types of other significant characters, and try to analyze how the author creates his/her character(s). Major characters are those who play important roles in a work; minor characters are those who play lesser roles. A complex character is considered a “round” character while a simple character is “flat.” A **dynamic character** changes throughout the work, but a **static character** remains the same.
- ☐ **Narrator(s):** the one who tells the story.  
**Narrative voice / Point of View:** the perspective of the narrator.
  - (1) First-person point of view is when the narrator is a character in the work and narrates the action as he/she perceives and understands it.
  - (2) Third-person point of view is when the events and characters are described by a narrator outside the action.
  - (3) Third person omniscient point of view means the narrator is all-knowing, seeing into the minds of more than one character.
  - (4) Third-person limited point of view is when the narrator tells the story from the perspective of only one of the characters, so the reader learns only what that character thinks, feels, observes and experiences.
- ☐ **Setting:** Identify the setting, defined as the time and place of the action of a short story, novel, play, narrative poem or nonfiction narrative. Setting may also include the social and moral environment that forms the background for a narrative. It is one of the main elements in fiction and often plays an important role in what happens and why. Note changes in setting, and consider the importance of the setting to plot and development of ideas.
- ☐ **Figurative language:** writing or speech not meant to be interpreted literally. It creates vivid word pictures and makes writing emotionally intense and concentrated (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, apostrophe, symbol, imagery, etc).
- ☐ **Allusion:** a reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work or work of art. Allusions often come from the Bible, classical Greek and Roman myths, plays by Shakespeare, historical or political events and other materials authors expect their readers to know.
- ☐ **Tone:** – is an expression of a writer’s attitude toward a subject. Unlike mood, which is intended to shape the reader’s emotional response, tone reflects the feelings of the writer. The writer’s choice of words and details helps establish the tone, which might be serious, humorous, sarcastic, playful, ironic, bitter or objective. To identify the tone of a work, you might find it helpful to read the work aloud. The emotions you convey in

reading should give you clues to the tone of the work. REMEMBER: **TONE** is set by the author. **MOOD** is the reader's reaction.

- ☐ **Theme:** *a central idea or message* in a work of literature. Theme should not be confused with the subject or what the work is about. Rather, **theme is a perception about life or human nature** shared with the reader. Sometimes the theme is directly stated within a work; at other times it is implied, and the reader must infer the theme. (In *Macbeth*, some themes are the corrupting effect of unbridled ambition, guilt, and the lure of supernatural forces.) To discover theme, consider what happens to the central characters. The importance of those events, stated in terms that apply to all human beings, is the theme. In poetry, imagery and figurative language also help convey *theme*. (In Chaucer's "The Pardoner's Tale," what happens to the three young men illustrates the theme that "the love of money is the root of all evil.") A "light" work, one written strictly for entertainment, may not have a theme.

## Reminders

1. Underline important information, significant passages, and **take notes on this information!** Never just underline or highlight something without including a written note that explains the reason for its significance. These can be done on a separate sheet of paper, in the margins of your personal copy, or on a post-it note.
2. **Questions are part of your notes!** Write them down as you read; they may be answered as you continue to read, but if they aren't you can ask them later in class.
3. Reread sections that you do not understand and **look up unfamiliar words**. Write a synonym in the margin to help you remember the meaning.

More about Literary Elements vs Literary Devices with Examples from Literature:

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/literary-devices/literary-elements/>

**\*\*When you return to school in August, bring your two novels to class along with your annotations.**

Happy reading!

Mrs. Elwell