

**Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition:
Mrs. Murchison & Mrs. Pozin
Summer Assignment: Reading, Questioning, and Writing**

We are very excited about teaching next year's senior Advanced Placement English Literature class because you have the potential to be another excellent group. We are hoping to team teach various units throughout the school year.

The information below describes your summer reading and writing assignments. The summer reading program is an important component of the AP English Literature 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. These important requirements will ease your transition into the AP English Literature program.

I. Required Book and Response Journal

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

Please keep an analytical reading journal. This reading journal is a record of your intellectual journey throughout the text.

Please structure your notebook investigation according to the following:

1. For every 100 pages, please complete a close reading of two significant scenes. Once you have examined the techniques used in each of these scenes (diction, imagery, etc), analyze the significance of each scene in 1-2 paragraphs as it relates to the meaning of the work as a whole.
2. For every 100 pages, please select three quotations. Then, please analyze the significance of your chosen quotations as they, also, illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
3. Once you have finished reading, consider how the text is narrated. What does Zusak achieve through this point of view? Please support your response to this question with three close readings of scenes (diction, imagery, etc). How do these three scenes specifically contribute to the effectiveness of the point of view? Why?
4. Ultimately, what overarching question(s) is Zusak asking us to consider? You may wish to base your discussion on a theme you have identified, or on a central question (ex: What does it mean to be human? How is our understanding of society shaped? What question does the text raise, and to what extent does the text provide an answer?)

This journal will be your resource as you write and as we discuss these works early in the fall. Please bring your reading journal throughout our September discussions.

DO NOT INCLUDE PLOT SUMMARY IN THIS JOURNAL.

(Please note: *The Book Thief* is in addition to the book you have selected to read over the summer as part of the GHS summer reading discussion groups program. You may find it a beneficial aspect of your reading to keep a response journal for this choice title as well, as we expect you to be AP student leaders in your GHS summer reading book discussions)

II. Poetry Exploration Assignment and Journal

The purpose of this assignment is to read many, many poems with the goal of answering the essential question “What is quality poetry?” As you read the assigned chapters outlined below, please also search for poems and poets that you find appealing/interesting/stimulating. Please read the first three chapters in the text *Sound and Sense*. You should have signed out one of these texts at GHS. For each chapter, please complete the following work:

1. Please take notes on each chapter (including terms, strategies you learned, or anything you found interesting).
2. Please respond to each of the questions that accompany four poems of your choice from each chapter.
3. Finally, please identify two poems per chapter that speak to you. For each of these poems, please respond to the following prompts:
 - a. Why did this poem stand out?
 - b. What techniques (diction, imagery, details, language, syntax, point of view, etc) contributed to the power of the poem? And, more importantly, how did those techniques contribute to creating the power of the poem?
 - c. What is the speaker’s experience as presented in the poem, and what is the poet asking us to think about with regard to this experience?

You may include artwork or add calligraphy if inspired.

This poetry journal is due the first day of class in the fall and will be your 1st major AP English Literature grade.

Please enjoy your summer. Read books you have been waiting to read. See you in the fall; email us any time throughout the summer with questions.