**Welcome to AP English Literature!**

I am excited about our upcoming year!

Because of the necessary and rewarding rigor of the AP class, we will begin our work during the summer to ensure you remain actively engaged in critical thinking, continue to improve your reading and comprehension skills, and arrive fully prepared for this college level class. Please note that **this is a college level class**-*NOT* a college prep class, and consequently, the work, texts, ideas, and writing level are those of college level classes.

**DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**

1. Formal essay-*Their Eyes Were Watching God*
2. One informal response
3. Annotated copy of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
4. 11th edition of Perrine’s *Sound and Sense An Introduction to Poetry* (This is an older edition, so online is the best source for finding these!)
5. Completed reading and annotations of poetry in *Sound and Sense* Chapters 1-4
6. 50 + page Spiral bound notebook (8\*11, college ruled)

**REQUIRED SUMMER READING:**

1. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*-Zora Neale Hurston.
2. *Sound and Sense,* Chapters 1-4

Choose any edition of *TEWWG,* but you must read the entire novel ***at least once*** to effectively complete the assignments and prepare for the test on the first day of school. This novel appears on the AP Lit test quite often, and the themes, images, and text structure will act as the thread for all of first quarter’s work. Start early to ensure you have ample time to complete the reading and the attached writing assignments. Please don’t become discouraged in the first chapters; your fluency and comprehension improve dramatically as you read. Reading the dialect aloud enables you to better understand the text.

**WHILE YOU READ:** **Please annotate the entire text.** Identify \*figurative language, important passages or quotes, personal connections, thematic elements, ask questions, make comments, and summarize chunks. You will need to have your annotated text with you the first day of class. I will check your texts! Also, please use the website (easthighaplit.com) for historical context, biographies, music, and art, an understanding of the setting, Harlem Renaissance, and race relations; doing so will only enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the narrator’s conflicts and motivations. The website will also have rubrics and writing guidelines, so please use this tool.

**AP blog:** [**http://easthighaplit.blogspot.com/**](http://easthighaplit.blogspot.com/)During the summer, I will pose questions and provide quotes for students to comment on which directly link to themes, ideas, and events in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. You are expected to contribute your own reflections, opinions, and theories on the blog. While it may seem like extra work, this blog may be a lifesaver! You will have the opportunity to share and discuss views, ask questions, and gain insight into the text prior to writing your essays. Previous year’s responses are still available for you to use, too.

**\*You should easily identify examples of:** simile, metaphor, allusions, dialect, dialogue, symbols, setting, and characterization (both direct and indirect) and consider their thematic function.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: You will write a literary response essay to the following prompt, and then one informal essay to questions 1 and 2 below.**

**FORMAL ESSAY:** I expect MLA format, and your essay should comprise about 3-5 pages with the emphasis on analysis. If you turn in a summary, **you will fail**. Check the website for guides and the rubric to ensure your work focuses on critical thinking and analysis versus a retelling of the plot.

**FORMAL ESSAY PROMPT:**

**2012.** “And after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in the protagonist, Janie. Please write a well-organized essay in which you **analyze** how surroundings affect this character and **illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole**. Avoid mere plot summary.

**INFORMAL essay:** This response is informal, which means that you may use personal pronouns and more casual language. This assignment should help you make personal connections with Janie. I do still expect them to be typed, using MLA format.

1. Janie’s grandmother reveals her hopes for Janie when she advises, “But nothing can’t stop you from wishin’. You can’t beat nobody down so low till you can rob ‘em of they will” (Hurston 3). Consider your own experience, in a two-page narrative, relate a time or experience that parallels the idea of someone or something attempting to complicate or prevent you from achieving your goals and how you have or are continuing to pursue them.

**QUESTIONS???** Email: [nancy.peterson@slcschools.org](mailto:nancy.peterson@slcschools.org)

Blog: <http://easthighaplit.blogspot.com/>

***RECOMMENDED* TITLES FOR EAST HIGH FREE CHOICE READING**:

You are still expected to complete the East High Summer Reading assignment. Please choose a title from this list to better prepare you for AP lit-and life. ☺ This list encompasses the quintessence of literature, (which is a wholly verbose way of saying, “Seriously! These texts are freakin’ awesome!), and I unreservedly contend that you are morally, spiritually, and intellectually obliged to read and love these few selections. I’ve included the number of times each title has appeared on the AP test in the last 47 years, also.

**Most Frequently Cited 1970-2017**

28 *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

20 *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

18 \**Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

18 *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

17 *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevski

17 *King Lear* by William Shakespeare

15 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

15 *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

14 *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

14 *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce

14 *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

13 \**The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

13 *\*Othello* by William Shakespeare

13 *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

13 *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

12 *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville

12 *Light in August* by William Faulkner

11 *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko

11 *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

10 *Antigone* by Sophocles

10 *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner

10 \**The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

10 *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

10 *Native Son* by Richard Wright

10 *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

10 *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

9 *Tess of the D’Ubervilles* by Thomas Hardy

9 *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy

9 *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

9 *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy

\*You may only complete these if you did not study them last year!

Here’s a list of newer texts which may not appear on the AP Lit test, but these are of such great literary merit that it behooves you to read them.

*The Secret History Buried Giant Never Let Me Go Sing, Unburied Sing*

**PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS:**

[*The Orphan Master's Son*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Orphan_Master%27s_Son) by [Adam Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Johnson_(writer))

[*What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What_We_Talk_About_When_We_Talk_About_Anne_Frank) by [Nathan Englander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathan_Englander)

*The Snow Child* by [Eowyn Ivey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eowyn_Ivey" \o "Eowyn Ivey)

[*The Goldfinch*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Goldfinch_(novel)) by [Donna Tartt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donna_Tartt)

*The Son* by [Philipp Meyer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipp_Meyer)

*The Woman Who Lost Her Soul* by [Bob Shacochis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Shacochis)

[*All the Light We Cannot See*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_the_Light_We_Cannot_See) by [Anthony Doerr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Doerr)

*Let Me Be Frank with You* by [Richard Ford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Ford)

[*The Moor's Account*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Moor%27s_Account) by [Laila Lalami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laila_Lalami)

*Lovely, Dark, Deep* by [Joyce Carol Oates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce_Carol_Oates)

[*The Sympathizer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sympathizer) by [Viet Thanh Nguyen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viet_Thanh_Nguyen)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulitzer_Prize_for_Fiction#cite_note-10)

*Get in Trouble: Stories* by [Kelly Link](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelly_Link)

*Maud's Line* by [Margaret Verble](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Margaret_Verble&action=edit&redlink=1)

[*The Underground Railroad*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Underground_Railroad_(novel)) by [Colson Whitehead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colson_Whitehead)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulitzer_Prize_for_Fiction#cite_note-11)

[*Imagine Me Gone*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imagine_Me_Gone) by [Adam Haslett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Haslett)

*The Sport of Kings* by [C.E. Morgan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C.E._Morgan)