



## AP Literature & Composition, North Mesquite High School Summer Reading 2017-2018

Students,

I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for scheduling AP Literature and Composition during the upcoming school year. Welcome to the wonderful world of literature! I look forward to meeting you in August.

Whole class works planned for study during the year include the following:

- *Hamlet* (Shakespeare)
- *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Stoppard)
- *A Doll House* (Ibsen)
- *Heart of Darkness* (Conrad)
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Wilde)
- *Inferno* (Dante)
- *1984* (Orwell)

Early in the year we will write college application essays. Think about where you want to apply and check the colleges' websites for the topics of any required admission essays to save yourself some time when school begins.

If you want to take advantage of sales this summer before school begins, here are the supplies you will need for AP Literature this year:

- blue or black ink pens (I *really* don't like reading work done in pencil!)
- notebook filler paper
- binder or folder to keep class materials
- composition book or spiral to be used for just this class
- pocket folder for research paper

With the right attitude and enthusiasm for learning, success will be yours. See you in August. Be ready to work! Contact me this summer with any questions through the email listed below. I will check it several times a week throughout the summer. Have a great summer and have fun! (No, really!)

Cheers,

Mrs. Gaskin

[wgaskin@mesquiteisd.org](mailto:wgaskin@mesquiteisd.org)

### Assignment:

You need to read two books this summer: *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, and a book of your choice. You may see me in D-4 to check out *Lord of the Flies* before school dismisses for the year; however, owning your own copy so you can make notes and mark will be helpful to you. There will be a reading test on *Lord of the Flies* after school starts and we will use it in training for writing literature essays.

Your second novel needs to be:

- a work of fiction (and not a graphic novel)
- a full-length novel (not a novella, generally defined as work of fewer than 100 pages)
- something you're genuinely interested in reading
- a book you've never read before

If you want suggestions, here are titles that students in previous years have enjoyed (or it might be fun to ask family, friends, and teachers for a book recommendation). You are not limited to this list, **but do NOT select one of the works for next year's whole class study (on first page) as a summer read.**

*Atonement* (McEwan)

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (Foer)

*The Kite Runner* (Hosseini)

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Hosseini)

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (Edwards)

*Never Let Me Go* (Ishiguro)

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Wilde)

*Pride and Prejudice* (Austen)

*The Road* (McCarthy)

*Native Son* (Wright)

*Life of Pi* (Martel)

*Ellen Foster* (Gibbons)

*The Bluest Eye* (Morrison)

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*  
(Haddon)

*The Secret Life of Bees* (Kidd)

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (Alvarez)

*A Lesson Before Dying* (Gaines)

*The Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger)

*Bless Me, Ultima* (Anaya)

Amazon and Goodreads are good sources of information for books you are considering.

For both works, complete the Summer Reading Novel Questions attached (that's two sets of questions). Your responses may be typed or handwritten in blue or black ink. All responses must be your own; please do not collaborate with other students.



## **Extra Credit Opportunity:** **Shakespeare in the Park** ***The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Quixote***

If you've never attended Shakespeare in the Park, here's your opportunity to see what all the fuss is about and earn 10 extra credit points on your summer reading test over *Lord of the Flies*—just bring your program the first week of class. Take friends, family, a blanket, and a picnic. Enjoy!

### ***The Merry Wives of Windsor*** **by William Shakespeare**

**Opening Week: June 14th – 17<sup>th</sup> at Samuell Grand Amphitheatre**  
**Continues Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays: June 28th – July 21st**

### ***Quixote***

**based on the novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel Cervantes**

**Opening Week: June 21st – 25<sup>th</sup> at Samuell Grand Amphitheatre**  
**Continues Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays: June 27th – July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**All shows start at 8:15pm**

Student & Senior tickets are only available for purchase at the performance venue. Senior (55+) and **student ticket prices are \$7.00 on Thursdays & Sundays and \$12.00 on Fridays & Saturdays at the gate only** for General Admission at 7:30 pm. The regular price of admission is \$10.00 on Thursdays & Sundays and \$15.00 on Fridays & Saturdays. Children 12 and younger are free. All online ticket orders are Advanced Tickets, with early entrance time of 7:00 pm.

For more information, go to the website: <http://www.shakespearedallas.org>

### Summer Reading Novel Questions—complete a separate set of questions for each novel

With the exception of question 1, answer all questions thoroughly and in complete sentences on your own paper. Responses may be typed or neatly hand-written in blue or black ink.

1. Bibliographic information. Follow this format EXACTLY!

Author's last name, first name. Title of Book. Publisher, Earliest copyright date.

**Thaler, E. M. *How to Rule the Universe*. Random House, 1992.**

2. Explain the meaning of the title. (NOTE: If the meaning of your title is obvious, like *Silas Marner*, then give an extended meaning. Explain why it would be appropriate.)
3. What is the main conflict in the book? Explain in detail using examples from the rising action, climax, and conclusion.
4. Identify the protagonist. List three (3) physical characteristics. Identify three (3) personality traits. Provide one example from the story to support each personality trait. (NOTE: Do not try to repeat yourself by saying "kind, nice, and sweet" as personality traits. Each trait must be distinctly different.)
5. Describe the setting in the following terms:
- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Year                          | d. Place where most action occurs    |
| b. Season of the year            | e. Cultural background of characters |
| c. Amount of time the book spans |                                      |
6. a. What is the main theme of your book? (an idea that is introduced, relating to the plot – such as power, jealousy, etc.)  
b. What message do you think the author wants the reader to understand about the theme?
7. a. Write the last sentence of your book. Explain how the conclusion of the novel leads up to that sentence.  
b. Is this sentence appropriate as "the last sentence" of your book? Why or why not? Offer an alternate sentence.
8. Is the novel based upon the workings of the heart (meant to affect you emotionally) or of the mind (meant to make you think)? Explain why using at least three (3) examples from the novel.
9. With which character do you most identify? Why? Explain using examples from the character's life and your life. If none, explain the differences between yourself and the most opposite character from you using examples from the character's life and yours.
10. Would your book be different if the main character was of the opposite gender? Assume that significant others would change genders as well, if that is a factor. Explain how this change would or would not affect your story.

**KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**  
**NORTH MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SUMMER READING CONTRACT**  
**2017-2018**

The purpose of the summer reading program is to provide a foundation of literary experience that will enable a student to be successful in all of his classes at the high school level and beyond. All Mesquite Independent School District honors and Renaissance programs require summer reading; therefore, a transfer to another Mesquite school does not relieve the student of this responsibility. Each student and one parent are asked to sign a statement confirming that they fully understand the summer assignment requirements for participation in this program.

**STUDENT STATEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on this date,  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2017, agree to read the works listed on the summer reading sheet designated for students enrolled in AP Literature and Composition at North Mesquite High School and to do the related assignments required. I understand that failure to complete these assignments will gravely impact my grade for the first six-weeks of the 2017-2018 school year. I understand that the assignments will count as first six-weeks grades and will serve as the basis for other assignments throughout the school year.

I know that the required assignments are due on the **very first day I go to English class**. I understand that all work submitted must be my work alone and represent my independent effort. I also understand that watching a movie version of the novels or using any “study” guide in place of reading the text itself is not acceptable and is considered intellectual dishonesty.

In addition to signing and returning this statement to the teacher, I understand that I am to keep the student copy in the assignment packet to remind me of my obligation and commitment.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_