

Advance Placement Literature and Composition

Summer Reading\Writing

Read TWO of the following contemporary novels:

- *Reservation Blues*, Sherman Alexie
- *Old School*, Tobias Wolff
- *Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver
- *All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy
- *Beloved*, Toni Morrison

And TWO of the following classic novels:

- *Persuasion*, Jane Austen
- *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens
- *Portrait of a Lady*, Henry James
- *Lord Jim*, Joseph Conrad
- *A Lost Lady*, Willa Cather

In a 3-4 page essay, address *one* of the following prompts, using any one of the ten novels listed above as the work about which you write in response to the prompt.

Due date: September 17, 2010.

2010 Select a novel in which a character experiences exile in the sense that he or she becomes cut off from "home," whether that home is the character's birthplace, family, homeland or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character's experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2009 Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. Choose a novel or play that focuses on a political or social issue. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2008: In many works of literature, a main character has a mentor or mentor-like acquaintance whose influence dramatically changes how the character views not only himself or herself, but the world as well. Choose a novel or play in which a mentor exhibits such a strong influence, either beneficial or harmful, on one of the main characters. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss the nature of the mentor's influence and its significance to the work as a whole.

2007 Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a novel or play that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

2006 In many works of literature, a physical journey - the literal movement from one place to another - plays a central role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.