

June 2, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Enclosed please find the summer assignment for students enrolled in 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP English at Temima High School in August 2011. This assignment is designed both to engage students' minds through reading and writing and to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

The required summer reading books are *Persuasion* by Jane Austen and *The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor. Students must read the books and complete the reading assignments listed on the following pages before the start of the school year. Students should also have a copy of each book to use for classroom study.

In addition, a packet that includes information about the AP English program is also included with this assignment. Students should read over this information, which will acquaint them with the goals and benefits of the AP English program; complete the multiple choice practice test; and review the answers to this practice test to assess their strengths and weaknesses in answering multiple choice questions

If you have any questions or concerns before the start of the fall semester, you may leave a message for me at the school or contact me by email at [mschafstall@temima.org](mailto:mschafstall@temima.org). Students may also email me with any specific questions about the summer assignments.

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Schafstall  
Language Arts Teacher  
Temima High School for Girls

AP English

Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The first day of class after orientation week. In addition to the assignment listed below, you will probably be given some kind of in-class writing assessment on this date.

*Persuasion* by Jane Austen

**Part 1 - Annotation Assignment:**

As you read the novel, you should annotate – write notes/highlight in your book or use post-it notes if you prefer not to write in your book. You should annotate based on what you notice during your reading of the novel. Just as you have done in the past, look for how the author does each of the following: 1) develops characters, 2) describes settings, 3) uses literary devices (motif, figurative language, etc.), and 4) develops themes.

When annotating your book, you must clearly mark which of the above items each annotation corresponds to. You may do this by using different colors of ink or highlighter (or post-it notes). For example, you could use a yellow highlighter for #1, green for #2, pink for #3, and blue for #4. You could also write all notes in blue pen but mark each annotation as either #1, #2, #3, or #4. This will enable you to quickly pick out quotes for each item as we discuss them in the fall.

In addition, you should definitely annotate anything else in the book that you find interesting and/or confusing. Due to the nature of this assignment, you may use abbreviations to a reasonable degree. This would include using “&” for “and” and other widely accepted abbreviations, such as “w/” for “with” and “b/c” for “because.” Do not use numbers to represent words, such as “2” for “to” or “4” for “for.”

Note: Under no circumstances will I accept for credit a book that has comments/annotations written by another student, friend, relative, etc. You must use a clean copy of the book, and you will receive a grade for your book annotations.

**Part 2 - Written Assignment:**

Complete the following sections (in this order):

I. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three questions that a teacher might ask you about the novel either in class or for an essay. These questions should be thought-provoking and almost always take more than one line to type because they ask readers to combine more than one idea. Just *writing* these types of questions helps you to anticipate what questions might be asked of you in class discussion or on a test and encourages you to think more insightfully about the book or play.

II. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the novel (in your opinion). Type it up word-for-word in the approach paper. Make sure to identify the speakers (if dialogue) and list the page number.

III. Key Passage Explanation: In a fully-developed paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the novel. Discuss any mentioned or inferred themes connected to the key passage.

IV. Essay (2-3 typed pages): In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. For *Persuasion*, discuss how Anne Elliot must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how Anne’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work.

Happy reading! I look forward to discussing this book with you in the fall.

AP English

Part 2: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: Approximately the second – third week of classes – but I strongly suggest that you at least have the book read before school starts as I will begin assigning homework the first week of school, including writing assignments.

*The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor

Note: This novel is set in provincial Ireland in the early 1920s at the height of civil turmoil and anti-English violence.

**Part 1 - Annotation Assignment:**

Please follow the guidelines given for the annotation assignment listed for *Persuasion*.

**Part 2 - Written Assignment:**

Complete the following sections (in this order):

I. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three questions that a teacher might ask you about the novel either in class or for an essay. These questions should be thought-provoking and almost always take more than one line to type because they ask readers to combine more than one idea. Just *writing* these types of questions helps you to anticipate what questions might be asked of you in class discussion or on a test and encourages you to think more insightfully about the book or play.

II. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the novel (in your opinion). Type it up word-for-word in the approach paper. Make sure to identify the speakers (if dialogue) and list the page number.

III. Key Passage Explanation: In a fully-developed paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the novel. Discuss any mentioned or inferred themes connected to the key passage.

IV. Style Passage. Choose a passage in the novel that illustrates how this novel can be read as an elegy to Ireland. (An elegy is a solemn, reflective poem, usually about death, written in a formal style.) In a paragraph, justify your choice.

V. Style Writing. Type out a short passage from the novel (with page #) and then rewrite it in the style of Jane Austen. Then, do the same for *Persuasion* - type out a short passage from the novel (with page #) and then rewrite it in the style of William Trevor.

VI. Essay (2-3 typed pages): Critic Roland Barthes has said “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Considering Barthes’ observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question raised by *The Story of Lucy Gault* and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid plot summary.