

School year 2019-20

AP English

**Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment**

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

*The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

**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.), 4) develops themes, and 5) anything else you find interesting/worth discussing. **I expect your books to be heavily annotated.** You may write in your book, use sticky notes, or use regular paper (handwrite or type).

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.

You can email me with any questions at [mschafstall@temima.org](mailto:mschafstall@temima.org)

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

## **AP English**

### **Part 2: Summer Reading Assignment**

Due Date: The second 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.

#### Choose one of the following:

*The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor  
*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens  
*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster  
*Persuasion* by Jane Austen

#### **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): 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 in the novel 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.

#### **For both assignments:**

All work should be your own. Evidence that any part of this assignment was plagiarized from other sources (including other students’ work or online websites) will result in grade penalties that may include loss of credit for this assignment and possible disciplinary action.