

**RISING 12TH GRADE/AP LITERATURE
SUMMER READING
AND
SUMMER JOURNAL**

Dear Student:

Welcome to 12th Advanced Placement Literature. I am looking forward to a productive and successful year. Please read the information contained in this letter as it explains the reading and journal assignment for the summer.

One of the themes we will explore this year will be absurdist literature. Below are listed the titles of the three works to be read over the summer:

- Edward Albee's *Seascape* (drama)
- Albert Camus's *The Plague*
- Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*

These works are available in hardback and paperback, and may be available online or on Kindle. You may prefer hard copies since with those, you will be able to highlight and annotate. In addition to reading these three works, you will keep a guided response journal. The completed journal is due the first day of the new school year and will not be accepted late. It will be assessed for a grade.

JOURNAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT

The journal should be formatted according to the following criteria:

- Either a spiral notebook of 8 ½ X 11 paper or, on the same sized loose-leaf paper secured in a binder, ringed or tabbed (no loose pages or pages stapled at the top);
- Either a typed copy or handwritten. If handwritten, it should be completed in BLACK ink.

The journal should contain the following contents for **EACH** of the three works:

- Title, author, and original date of publication at the top of the first page;
- A list containing major characters with short phrases and words indicating personality traits for each;
- Consider the title of the work. Write a paragraph that explains the significance of the work's title beyond its obvious, most literal significance;
- Two quotations that address significant issues/themes/ideas and a paragraph explanation for each quotation;
- An additional quotation that you feel makes a bold statement; then write a **one page** response in which you explain why you agree or disagree with this statement;
- At least a one page response that addresses the following topic:
 - Choose an implausible or strikingly unrealistic incident or character. Write a response that explains how the incident or character is related to the more realistic or plausible elements in the rest of the work.

(No credit will be given to responses that are merely plot summary [i.e., what happened], though plot should be used discreetly to support ideas.)

This assignment is a journal, so you may be slightly informal in your discussions, but never should you skimp on ideas and insights. Make sure your writing is clear and interesting

Have a great summer! I hope you enjoy both of these works.

“There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry –
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll –
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul –“

-Emily Dickinson

