

AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading 2022

Dear AP Lit & Comp Students,

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of enrolling in this course for the 2022-2023 school year. We will be reading a variety of short stories, novels, dramas, and poems, so be prepared to not only read but also to discuss these pieces and write about them. Your dedication and effort this year will help you understand and appreciate complex literature as we prepare for the AP exam. The writing assignments throughout the course will better prepare you for advanced writing in your courses here at Bishop Brady, in college, and the future. The reading, writing, and critical thinking activities in which you participate this year will help you greatly in all facets of life.

The literature selection for summer reading this year is important in preparing for the AP exam but hopefully you will find enjoyment in your reading as well. Please take the attached assignments seriously, as we will be referencing the texts throughout the course. The assignments are due during the first week of school.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know. I can be reached at elion@bishopbrady.edu. I am available throughout the summer if additional help or guidance is needed on an assignment.

I also encourage you to take time this summer to read for yourself. The only way to become a faster reader is to practice. I'm looking forward to class next year!

Ms. Lion

PS - If you have any reading suggestions, please send them my way! I'm always looking for new titles!

Reading List:

→ *The Handmaid's Tale* - Margaret Atwood

◆ OR

→ *1984* - George Orwell

→ *A Children's Bible* - Lydia Millet

→ Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home - Pope Francis ([PDF](#))

→ Poetry Collection - Personal Choice

Assignments:

Fiction: Choose one of the following:

The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood

1984 - George Orwell

1. **Read** *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood OR *1984* by George Orwell. [Annotate](#) your text focusing on character and theme.
2. [Thesis Statement Writing](#): Consider the following essay prompts. Write one thesis statement per prompt based on which novel you read. The ability to develop a strong thesis statement is highly beneficial when writing, and practicing the skill of thesis writing is a key part of writing stronger statements. **This is due the first day of class.**
3. **Timed Write** during the first week or so of class on your selected novel.

A Children's Bible - Lydia Millet

Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home - Pope Francis ([PDF](#))

1. **Read** *A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet. [Annotate](#) your text focusing on allusions (specifically biblical) and references to climate (changes, weather, unnatural patterns, etc.).
2. **Read/Review** the Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home written by Pope Francis in 2015. While the [PDF](#) is 184 pages long, it's a pleasant read. After reading, write a letter to Pope Francis, explaining why you agree or disagree with his encyclical. You can relate it to *A Children's Bible* if you'd like, but that is not required. I'm more so looking for your thoughts on his writing and your defense of your stance. (You do not need to mail your letter, but be sure to maintain a formal tone. It should be at least one typed page in length.) Follow block letter formatting. **This is due the first day of class.**

3. **Socratic Seminar** - During the first week of class, we will complete a Socratic Seminar on *A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet and Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home written by Pope Francis ([PDF](#)). The purpose of this seminar is not only to address the content of the two pieces, but also to look about how **climate fiction** is becoming a more recognized genre and how it fits into the “traditional” literary canon. **The exact date of the seminar is not yet set, as we will need to examine the start of the year schedule and find the day that works best.** Having annotated texts will make creating your Preparation Notes a manageable task, and we will cover the specifics once we are in school. If you have any questions, please reach out and ask.

Poetry Collection (Personal Choice)

1. Look into the many poetry collections available these days. **You need to purchase a physical copy of a poetry collection. A poetry collection is a collection of poems by one poet.** Choose one that is interesting to you. Your poet can be contemporary or one of the classic names. (There will be a GoogQues about your poetry collection title and author once the class list is finalized, and GoogClassroom is set up for the course.)
2. Read the poetry collection. Annotate while doing so, and try out the [MIST reading strategy](#) for at least ten poems.
3. You will select one of the poems from your collection and share it with the class through an informal presentation. We will also be analyzing these poems in writing during the first weeks of class.

Attached Documents:

- [Annotation Guidelines](#)
- [Thesis Statement Writing](#)
- ([PDF](#)) - Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home - Pope Francis
- [Socratic Seminar](#)
- [MIST Poetry Reading Strategy](#)