

A.P. English Summer Reading

also known as

Satire in the Sun

Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own, which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world, and that so few are offended with it.

Jonathan Swift

Introduction:

For your summer reading this year, you will be reading two satires—*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. A **satire** is a work that makes fun of something in hopes of changing it. As you read, try to identify what each author is criticizing. I encourage you to take notes as you read so that you can document your careful observations. Books will be available for you to sign out and take with you upon leaving school for the summer. Should you want to use your own copy of a text (personal or borrowed from the library), feel free to do so. I highly recommend using post-it notes and flags to mark up your texts while you are reading.

Assignment:

One major objective of A.P. English will be to practice close reading. As you read over the summer, you will be expected to practice this as well. While reading you should be sure to mark and identify important passages from the novels as well as generating interesting points and questions for discussion. You do not need to write about each and every one of these passages over the summer—we will spend time working with them once class begins. I will ask you to compose three thoughtful journal entries (one after reading the first third, one after the second third, and one at the novel's conclusion) in response to each work. Your entries should be at least one page long (approximately 250 words) and should have a focus. Consider analyzing a particular character, dialogue, or scene. Be sure to use the text in your analysis—quote the text and analyze it. The more closely you use and analyze the text the better. Your responses will be collected the **first Friday of school** and they will count as **two quiz grades** (see attached rubric). I hope that you find *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Gulliver's Travels* to be challenging and interesting works. I am eager to read about your interpretations of and reactions to each text. While I know that these novels are challenging, please do not seek out Cliffs Notes, Sparknotes, etc. for help through your reading. These “aides” often corrupt your initial reading of a text and prevent you from focusing on your own responses to and interpretations of the novel.

As you read over the summer, you will also be asked to submit a comment/question/thought/passage to our class' online discussion at our class' blog. To find this blog, visit the JSRHS homepage at www.jsrhs.net. and click on the blogs tab (on the left of the page). Once you get to the blog page, you will discover the **A.P. English Literature and Composition** page. Click here and you'll find everything that you need! It is easy to publish your comments for each discussion. You do not need to sign in to the blog, but I do ask that you choose a name (*other* than your real name) to identify yourself by. The site is meant to facilitate productive and fruitful discussion throughout the summer. In addition, I hope that it helps you all through your reading as well. All that I ask is that you post a comment **at least three different times** over the course of the summer. You may post during times that are most convenient to you; however, I do expect that you will spread out your posts. You will receive a quiz grade for the quality of your posts on our page.

Enrichment:

Many schools have rather lengthy summer reading lists for their A.P. classes. While I am not assigning any additional readings, I encourage you to read as many “classics” as you can fit into your schedule. Ultimately, whatever reading you do, whether classics or modern works, will be helpful to you in preparing for the exam. I also encourage you to attend any plays if possible.

Suggested Titles (Don't try to read all of these!):**Novels**

The Age of Innocence
The Invisible Man
Native Son
Pride and Prejudice
Wuthering Heights
Great Expectations
The Mayor of Casterbridge
Anna Karenina

Plays to Check Out

The Glass Menagerie
Hamlet
Julius Caesar
Our Town
Antigone
Macbeth
A Raisin in the Sun
King Lear
The Tempest
Medea
The Merchant of Venice

If you need to reach me this summer, I would suggest e-mailing me or calling me at the number below if you need to get a hold of me immediately. You may leave a question for me at our blog or you may e-mail me directly. At some point our e-mail addresses will be changing over the summer—I will e-mail you with an updated address as soon as that occurs. I hope that you all have a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

I look very forward to working with you in the fall!

Maureen E. Corsetti
731-7288 (c)
m_corsetti@jsrhs.net

Text Information:

We work with the *Norton Introduction to Literature* (9th Edition) by Alison Booth. Though I will place an order of these texts in the fall, I strongly encourage you to look into purchasing your own text (from a former student, from a bookstore, or from a venue like Amazon.com) over the summer. I highly recommend checking out Amazon.com. This anthology is a fabulous book; however, it costs approximately \$78.00. I have done some research on Amazon.com and I have found several used texts at a very reasonable price (\$35.00). I do have some copies of the text available for students to borrow; however this quantity is limited.



