



AP Literature

HHS 2025-2026

Summer Assignment for 2026-2027 Academic Year

Seniors:

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition! I'm really excited to have all of you in class, and I'm glad you made the decision to challenge yourselves with this course. Our course will focus on writing and reading and analyzing a variety of literature. It may be challenging at times and might require you to step out of your comfort zone, but the end results will be worth the effort.

To prepare us for the year, we need to be ready to hit the ground running on the first day. I have two assignments that you will need to do over the summer. The first is reading F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Even if you have already read it, you need to refresh your memory by reading it over the summer. I am not going to require a reading log, annotations, notes, or paper (yet) that will go along with this novel. The objective is to have a common base that we can utilize to get started immediately. I encourage you to take notes, but they will be for your own benefit and class discussions, not a graded assignment.

In keeping with the course, there are five main areas that I would like you to examine as you read:

- Characters and Characterization
- Setting
- Structure
- Narration
- Figurative Language

We will talk about how all of these function within the novel, so be prepared to join in on the conversation with your own ideas.

The second assignment is going to be a personal essay. You need to write a 500–650-word essay about a difficult situation that you had to overcome in the past. This is similar to the prompt that Common App uses for scholarships and admissions. The idea is that since so many of you must do this anyway, we might as well make it something that we dedicate some time to. This change is based on feedback from previous students, so let's see how it goes. Focus on the situation, but also what you learned from it.

I'm really excited about next year, and I hope you all are, too. Have a great summer, enjoy the assignments, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Please email me if you have any questions at all.

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