



Rolling Meadows High School
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Dr. David R. Schuler
Superintendent

Eileen M. Hart
Principal

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Dear AP Literature and Composition Student:

We are excited that you are enrolled in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition next year! As an AP student, you are required to participate in independent summer reading. Please read these three (3) novels over the summer:

1. *Sula* by Toni Morrison
2. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
3. One of the RMHS Summer Reading Novels (*The Testing*, Joelle Charbonneau; *All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr; *Dumplin'*, Julie Murphy; *All American Boys*, Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely; *Every Soul a Star*, Wendy Mass; *The Sun is Also a Star*, Nicola Yoon; *The Circle*, Dave Eggers; *Feed*, M.T. Anderson; *1984*, George Orwell)

We will be studying *Sula* and *Invisible Man* in depth as part of the course; choose your third novel based on whatever sounds interesting to you. Attached you will find the assignment sheet with a writing task for each of the three selections. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of us via email:

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If you're interested in getting a head start on any of the other novels we'll read for AP Literature, here is the rest of the reading list: *Wuthering Heights*, *Crime and Punishment*, *King Lear*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*. You'll be provided with copies of these four novels, but you are certainly welcome to purchase your own if you want to be able to annotate as you read. In addition to these longer works, we'll also read and analyze a variety of short stories and poems as part of our study.

Have a restful and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you in class!

Sincerely,

Caleb Parnin
AP Literature Teacher

Gabriel Popovich
AP Literature Teacher

AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading Assignments

DIRECTIONS: Write a fully developed paragraph (200 – 300 words each) responding to each of the prompts below. Your response should cite specific details from throughout the novel and answer the prompt rather than merely summarize the novel.

100 points will be awarded for completion of these three assignments. You will not be assessed for “correctness” and are definitely not expected to produce a formal essay. Your writing will give us the opportunity to evaluate how carefully you have read the novels, and it will serve as an initial writing sample.

These assignments will be collected on the first day of class.

1. *Invisible Man*:

In a novel, minor characters often play major roles. For example, the behavior or ideas of a minor character might be used to highlight certain qualities (good or bad) in the main character. Or a minor character’s role in a certain section might help to develop interesting themes or ideas in the novel as a whole. Choose a minor character from *Invisible Man* (such as Dr. Bledsoe, the Veteran, Lucius Brockway, Mary, Brother Jack, Tod Clifton, or any number of others) and analyze how he or she is essential to the novel.

2. *Sula*:

Toni Morrison writes in the forward of *Sula*, “Outlaw women are fascinating...” Outlaw women live by their own rules; they speak, think, and act in ways outside the bounds of “acceptable” social behavior. Choose a female character from *Sula* who fits the description of “outlaw woman” and analyze how she is fascinating, threatening, and/or significant.

3. Self-selected novel from RMHS Summer Reading List:

Critic Roland Barthes has said, “Literature is the question minus the answer.” A book rarely asks a question to its reader outright, but develops one through plot, characterization, and theme. *The Great Gatsby* seems to ask, for example, “Can true love transcend differences of social class?”; *To Kill a Mockingbird* might be said to ask “To what extent can a small Southern town overcome its own racism?” Describe an interesting question or idea posed by the book you read. Explain the way in which the novel answers (or doesn’t) the question and how that affects your understanding of the work as a whole.