



## 11 AP English Language and Composition– 2017-2018

\*\*\*\*\***Special note: Please purchase your AP English Language and Composition Examination workbook from Meredith at the front desk.**

### Summer Reading

**Directions:** Follow the directions for each of the following assignments carefully. All work must be typed (Times New Roman 12), double-spaced, and headed properly according to MLA guidelines. Do not forget pagination. Also, be aware that what you say is much more important than how much you write: quality vs. quantity. You are to submit the work on the first day of school. [50 points each book = 150 points]

During the first few days of class, you will have time to discuss the novels; this will be followed by a 50-point assessment or essay on each. [Total = 150 points]

#### *The Great Gatsby* – by F. Scott Fitzgerald

1. In many works of literature, past events can positively or negatively affect present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Select one character in *The Great Gatsby* who must contend with some aspect of the past – either personal or societal – and write an essay in which you show how the character’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
2. Many novels use contrasting places – two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea – to represent opposed forces to ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Select two such contrasting places in *The Great Gatsby* and write a well-developed essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work. Include two (2) accurately-cited examples. Do not merely summarize the plot.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** – by Zora Neale Hurston

1. The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid simple plot summary.
2. A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* focus on Janie's hair, the horizon, or another strong symbol; then write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

***The Dante Club*** – Matthew Pearl

*The Dante Club* is a literary mystery that incorporates the punishments found in Dante's *Inferno* with an historical interpretation of 1865 Boston in the post Civil War era. While a group of prestigious intellectuals works on an English translation of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, several ghastly Dante-related murders occur. Meanwhile, Pearl depicts conflicts at Harvard University (which he attended before Yale Law School) over Darwin's theory of Evolution, the Fugitive Slave Act, and more, along with a subplot in which Nicholas Rey, Boston's first black police officer, faces racism, as do Italian immigrants.

**Assignments:**

-As you read, list each of the main characters and describe the person's traits and the role each plays in the plot.

-Describe the murders in chronological order and give the victims, possible motives, and parallels to Dante's *Inferno*.

-Be sure to explore Matt Pearl's website to learn much more about the novel:

<http://www.matthewpearl.com/>

