

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER: A PERSONAL ZEITGEIST

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“If there is an amateur reader still left in the world--or anybody who just reads and runs-.....” -J.D. Salinger

Literature shares little with its academic cousins. Yet, it shares much. Far from “right answers” or crisp lines that separate the black from the white, literature revels in an infinite variety of grey. So it is different from Science and Math and Government. I will ask you to consider many points of view and, in this way, discover much more than you would think possible.

Remember, though, that the great minds of science and mathematics were so because of their ability to question answers and create new points of view. Literature, with its greyness, prompts these kinds of questions, an art and science which Neil Postman considers “the most important intellectual ability man has yet developed.” I’d like to see how literature affects you personally. Please give me your best effort.

### THE WORK

Choose a work from the following lists (list 1 if you want something easy, list 2 if you are up for a challenge). Keep track of important or memorable passages as you work your way through it. Have someone take a picture of you reading the book in some spectacular location: Deception Pass, Mount Rainer, Fred Myers, whatever. Please print the picture and bring it and the book with you on day one.

### THE LETTER

Write a letter to me explaining your thoughts on the novel. It’s your job to prove to me that you’ve read the work, not make me suspect that you have not.

1. List topics or questions the book prompted that you’d like to discuss.
2. List some memorable passages and why you consider them integral.
3. Tell me your true impressions of the work, good or bad.
4. Tell me about yourself and why you think you are unique. **Impress me.**
5. Email this (long) letter to me when you’ve written it but no later than:

**Tuesday, September 5!**

stantong@monroe.wednet.edu

### THE AP QUESTION

Your first AP Essay will be assigned the first week of school. I will provide a number of retired AP questions from past exams and will ask you to write using the summer reading as your support.

### THE QUAKER READING

Be prepared to read aloud from your novel or play in the Quaker tradition: “When the spirit moves you.” We will not, at this time, discuss or analyze. Clarification if someone wishes, but no formal discussion. This is amazing. Wonderfully crafted prose all hour long.

#### I.

<u>The Stranger*</u>	Albert Camus
<u>Heart of Darkness</u>	Joseph Conrad
<u>Notes from Underground*</u>	Fyodor Dostoevsky
<u>1984*</u>	George Orwell
<u>The Bell Jar</u>	Sylvia Plath
<u>The Catcher in the Rye</u>	J.D. Salinger
<u>Nausea</u>	Jean-Paul Sartre

#### II.

<u>Emma</u>	Jane Austen
<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>	“ “
<u>The Adventures of Augie March</u>	Saul Bellow
<u>Wuthering Heights</u>	Emily Bronte
<u>Don Quixote*</u>	Cervantes
<u>The Plague</u>	Albert Camus
<u>The Divine Comedy</u>	Dante
<u>A Tale of Two Cities</u>	Charles Dickens
<u>Great Expectations</u>	“ “
<u>The Brothers Karamazov*</u>	Fyodor Dostoevsky
<u>The Idiot*</u>	“ “
<u>Middlemarch</u>	George Eliot
<u>Absalom, Absalom</u>	William Faulkner
<u>Madame Bovary</u>	Flaubert
<u>Faust</u>	Goethe
<u>Jude the Obscure</u>	Thomas Hardy
<u>Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*</u>	James Joyce
<u>Sons and Lovers</u>	D.H. Lawrence
<u>One Hundred Years of Solitude*</u>	Gabriel Garcia Marquez
<u>Moby Dick</u>	Herman Melville
<u>Beloved</u>	Toni Morrison
<u>Anna Karenina *</u>	Leo Tolstoy
<u>War and Peace</u>	“ “
<u>Fathers and Sons</u>	Ivan Turgenev
<u>To the Lighthouse</u>	Virginia Woolf
<u>Mrs. Dalloway</u>	“ “

(\* Mr. Giles recommends...)