

June 8, 2016

Dear GT/AP students,

Next year is fast approaching; it is time to start preparing! GT/AP English courses are rigorous and demanding courses for students who wish to grow as learners. We expect GT level students to be independent readers and thinkers. Our goal is to prepare students for college and the Advanced Placement exams they will take during their junior and senior years. In order to prepare for these rigorous tests and courses, we recommend additional readings.

Traditionally, students have benefited from completing these works before the beginning of the new school year. All students should bring notes and assigned works to class.

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The texts listed below will have specific due dates assigned on the first day of school, depending on the English 9GT teacher. Copies of the works will be available to students during the first week of school as well. Please e-mail with any questions or concerns.

Quarter 1 (2016) – *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson

Write a typed, double-spaced, 2-page response to the following question: How does Merricat’s narration affect your understanding of the plot, characters, and/or message of the text? Provide textual support to verify your claims and analysis to explain the textual support you have utilized.

Quarter 3 (2017) – *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

Focusing on three major characters, use specific examples from the text to answer the prompt in a typed, double-spaced, 2-page response: How does the opening epigraph, Langston Hughes’ “Harlem”, forecast the ensuing conflicts faced by each of the major characters of Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*?

Sincerely,

Thomas Stuppy
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Over the course of next year, each of the three works below will be taught as supplemental required reading. While dates for completion of each novel will be given at the start of the year, students are encouraged to pre-read. Use the questions below to guide your reading.

***Oedipus the King* -- Sophocles (Fagles translation)**

For *Oedipus*, consider the following questions: What is the protagonist’s *hamartia*, or tragic flaw? How does Sophocles present Oedipus as a tragic hero? What is Oedipus’ punishment?

***Life of Pi* – Yann Martel**

Many believe each of the animals in *Life of Pi* is an allegorical representation of different elements within Pi’s psyche. Consider this while reading.

***In the Time of the Butterflies* – Julia Alvarez**

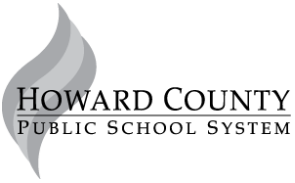
Butterflies is written with four distinct voices, and four distinct styles of narration. Consider each one, and think about which one you found to be the most effective narrative voice.

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Each of the works below will be assessed on the dates given below:

The Crucible - Arthur Miller - September 16

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain – November 14

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston – February 27

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald – May 16

For the specified works, take notes on the major themes and author's style. These notes should be your own ideas, not copied or summarized from other sources. In class on the assigned due dates, you will be given an assessment (in-class timed writing or novel test) of the work (details given in September). You will also complete a graded discussion board assignment through Turnitin.com on the days leading up to the due date for each novel.

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Each of the works below will be assessed at the end of the assigned month. You may want to read beforehand, then review or re-read them prior to the assessment.

No Exit or *Waiting for Godot* (September)

Read about Existentialism before you read the work and focus on Existentialist ideas as you read.

Richard III or *Henry IV, Part I* (October)

Note: For these history plays, you may find it helpful to do brief research on the time period and/or significant historical figures in the play before you read the work.

Emma or *Pride and Prejudice* (December)

Identify what the work says about the time period and the author's attitude.

A contemporary novel of literary significance written by a non-American (for the midterm exam in January)

Look at major literary prizes for suggested authors. (ex. Booker Prize, Nobel Prize)

The Poisonwood Bible (February)

For each work, complete the 12 AP book review (available on the school's website).

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We also encourage GT/AP students to read other works, both fiction and non-fiction. Studies show that students who read in a wide variety of genres and time periods have greater success on the AP Language and AP Literature exams.

Have a great summer. We look forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stuppy
Emily Stackhouse
Emily Dulany

Courtney Lucente
Scott Vennard

Jeannette Bonomo
Nicole Payne