



ISLAMIC FOUNDATION SCHOOL
Scholarship - Character - Service
300 W. Highridge Rd. - Villa Park, IL 60181
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Date: June, 2022

Dear AP Student:

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Literature course. The Advanced Placement curriculum reflects college-level analysis, reading, writing, and critical thinking. This seminar course will require students to participate verbally. Students enrolled in an AP course are expected to keep up with the academic rigor involved and spend at least 15 hours on assigned work/review weekly.

By taking this advanced course, you have agreed to engage in summer work. *Summer work will be due the first week of school.* The English Department recommends that you do so at a pace that allows you to enjoy and process the materials. Taking time to conduct the summer work will facilitate your understanding and better prepare you for the content covered in August.

You can access all this information on the Islamic Foundation School website. Go to, then click on “Student Life” (top right), then select “AP Summer Work” from the menu. A list of all AP courses will be displayed. Select the course that you are enrolled in.

Summer Work:

Textbook/Reading: Please see below

Directions: Please see below

Please review the IFS Academic Integrity Policy as listed in the Parent/Student Handbook on the school website. As society becomes more reliant on technology, IFS teachers have seen a notable increase in plagiarism, including students claiming material from online sources and/or claiming the work of past and present peers as their own original ideas. Due to this, we want to be sure that each student understands the seriousness of this offense and request that you sign and date the policy (see below) and return it to your AP teacher during the first week of class.

We look forward to having you join us in the upcoming school year,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alma Hasanbegovic

English teacher

ahasanbegovic@ifsvp.org

Academic Integrity Agreement:

I acknowledge that I have read the Academic Integrity Agreement entailing the Student Code of Conduct and Honor Code as identified in the Parent/Student Handbook and I will adhere to these policies and procedures while enrolled at Islamic Foundation School.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

AP English Literature Summer Reading

Greetings and welcome to AP English Literature! This is a fun, yet challenging course designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature. In preparation for our study in the fall, you do have some work to complete over the summer. Please see below for more info.

All readings and assignments are expected to be completed and ready to turn in on the first day of school.

Assignment 1: Poetry Analysis (Written Reflection Required)

Much of our studies will revolve around poetry. We will study poetry in full units and also on a weekly

basis. In preparation for this, I would like you to complete an assignment that tells me your interpretation of “great poetry.”

1. Select a poem that you consider to be worthy of study and instruction in AP English Literature.
2. Then, write a 250+ word response explaining what makes this a “great” poem.

I will not put any parameters on you, I simply want to know what you think makes a poem worthy of your time. Avoid online assistance in completing this assignment. There is no “wrong answer!”

Assignment 2: Choice Read of Literary Merit (Written Reflection Required)

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP Literature exam. Select a title to read over the summer. College Board frequently labels books or plays as titles with “literary merit,” although they never define that label.

1. Choose a novel or play to read this summer that, in your opinion, has literary merit.
2. Then, upon completion, write a 250+ word reflection explaining what that phrase means to you, and why this novel or play has literary merit.

You may choose an additional title off the list of suggested titles or you can research some common titles mentioned on the AP English Literature exam. Please do not re-read something or choose something below your reading level.

Books to Choose From:

800 BC – The Iliad - Homer

1759 – Candide – Voltaire

800 BC – The Odyssey – Homer

1811 – Sense and Sensibility – Jane Austen

1813 – Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
1823 – Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
1838 – Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
1847 – Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë
1847 – Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë
1850 – The Scarlet Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne
1861 – Silas Marner – George Eliot
1869 – Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
1884 – Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
1897 – Dracula – Bram Stoker
1891 – The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde
1899 – The Awakening – Kate Chopin
1902 – Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
1903 – The Call of the Wild – Jack London
1911 – Ethan Frome – Edith Wharton
1915 – The Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka
1925 – The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
1925 – Mrs. Dalloway – Virginia Woolf
1932 – Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
1937 – Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston
1937 – Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
1939 – The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck
1940 – The Power and the Glory – Graham Greene
1945 – Animal Farm – George Orwell
1949 – Nineteen Eighty-Four – George Orwell
1951 – The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
1952 – Invisible Man - Ralph Ellison
1952 – East of Eden – John Steinbeck
1953 – Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury
1954 – Lord of the Flies – William Golding
1958 – Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe
1959 – A Separate Peace – John Knowles
1960 – To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
1967 – The Chosen – Chaim Potok
1969 – I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou (non-fiction)
1969 – Slaughterhouse-Five – Kurt Vonnegut
1970 – Grendel – John Gardner
1976 – A River Runs Through It – Norman Maclean
1977 – Song of Solomon – Toni Morrison
1984 – The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros
1985 – The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood
1987 – Beloved – Toni Morrison
1989 – A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving
1990 – The Things They Carried – Tim O’Brien
1992 – The Secret History – Donna Tartt
1994 – In the Lake of the Woods – Tim O’Brien
1996 – Into the Wild – John Krakauer (non-fiction)
1996 – Push – Sapphire
1997 – Cold Mountain – Charles Frazier
1997 – The Red Tent – Anita Diamant
1997 – Memoirs of a Geisha – Arthur Golden
1998 – The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver

1998 – The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood

2001 – Atonement – Ian McEwan

2003 – The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

2001 – Life of Pi – Yann Martel

2002 – The Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri

2005 – The Memory Keeper’s Daughter – Kim Edwards

2005 – The Glass Castle – Jeannette Wells (non-fiction)

2005 – Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close – Jonathan Safran Foer

2006 – The Road – Cormac McCarthy

2008 – Serena – Ron Rash

2008 – Little Bee – Chris Cleave

2010 – The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot (non-fiction)

2010 – Room – Emma Donoghue

2012 – Salvage the Bones – Jesmyn Ward

2013 – The Goldfinch – Donna Tartt

2014 – Americanah – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

2014 – All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr

2014 – A Man Called Ove – Fredrik Backman

2015 – Go Set a Watchman – Harper Lee

2015 – The Nightingale – Kristin Hannah

2017 – Sing, Unburied, Sing – Jesmyn Ward

2017 – Born a Crime – Trevor Noah (non-fiction)

2018 – Where the Crawdads Sing – Delia Owens

2019 – Little Fires Everywhere – Celeste Ng

Suggested Plays:

Antigone – Sophocles

Any Shakespearean play

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams

The Crucible – Arthur Miller

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

A Doll’s House – Henrik Ibsen

An Enemy of the People – Henrik Ibsen

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde

Our Town – Thornton Wilder

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett