

Summer Reading Assignments for English III-AP 2010-2011
Mesquite High School

Welcome to English III-AP. Our course of study will include a survey of American Literature as well as preparation for both the TAKS test and the Advanced Placement (AP) English Language Exam. **It is a district expectation that students registering for and taking AP classes will take the national AP test at the end of the school year.** As a result, much of our curriculum is centered on the skills required to take this test. Regardless of whether the student takes the test or not, he or she is responsible for all material assigned for this class. All of the works chosen for this course have appeared on lists of titles recommended by the College Board as appropriate for preparing students to take the AP Exam in Language. **Because we engage in close reading analysis, students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the works we will study for the sake of convenience (reading ahead, marking passages, and writing notes in the text).**

We will begin the first week of the course with an exam of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. After reading the novel, complete the two assignments attached to this page. These questions require reason and thought; be complete and thorough. You may type or neatly print the assignment in blue or black ink on unlined paper. I prefer typed papers. This assignment is due on the first day of class. Expect a test over *The Grapes of Wrath* on this day as well.

The second assignment for the summer involves watching the film version of *Last of the Mohicans* (1992, directed by Michael Mann). Students may wish to view this film in groups, though **the attached assignment should be done individually**. This, too, will be due the first day of class.

Some of the works we will study in English III AP include the following works that you will read outside of class:

Nathaniel Hawthorn's *The Scarlet Letter*
Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*
F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

These works are American classics and can be found at most bookstores, but Book Stop, Borders, Half Price Books, and Paperbacks Plus in Mesquite should all have copies.

I look forward to meeting you and studying American Literature together. If you have questions about the summer reading assignment, please come by room C-14 before the end of school. Summer reading assignments will also be available from Mrs. Dershem in C-9 and Mrs. Jackson in the Registrar's office once school is out for the summer.

See you soon.

Ms. Edwards
Summer Reading
English III AP

The Grapes of Wrath
Summer Reading Assignment
AP English III

Assignment 1

Close Reading: Chapter 3 “The Tale of the Turtle”

Explore the mythical qualities of this chapter. Please write the questions and answers in complete sentences with quotes to support your ideas.

1. In a digression from the Joad story, we have a people/machine/animal trial. The turtle, carrying his house on his back, gets to the other side slowly but surely, but the two drivers react to the animal in very different ways. Explain.
2. After reading the chapter carefully, list the adjectives that describe the turtle in its journey to the other side of the road. Why would Steinbeck employ these adjectives?
3. If a symbol is an action or thing that points beyond its concrete, literal meaning, what might the turtle symbolize? Use text to support your ideas.
4. On a chart, list the words and phrases which describe the turtle and Jim Casy.
5. In the middle of chapter 4, Casy describes himself as being like the turtle, always going “off somewheres.” In what ways do the turtle and the preacher resemble each other physically?
6. Why did the turtle cross the road? Answer this joke with proof from the book.

Assignment 2

While reading the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, keep a chart that maps the references to both animals and machines. The chart should look something like the one below.

Chapter	Page	Quote	Context

You should make one chart for the animal references and a separate chart for the machine references. The context box is to briefly explain the quote—what is the significance of the reference, how often has this particular machine or animal been referenced, has the reference changed, if so how, etc. You should have NO LESS than FIVE quotes for each topic (minimum total 10 quotes).

This assignment involves gathering information that will then be used to construct an essay during the first 6 weeks of class.

English III AP
Summer Reading Assignment B
The Last of the Mohicans

For the film *The Last of the Mohicans*, choose three contrasts that appear throughout the story (i.e. between characters, settings, themes, conflicts, societies, fighting strategies, etc.) and create a brochure of your findings. While this is a love story, I am not interested in that aspect of the movie.

On the front side, provide a quote for each contrast and explain/analyze its significance to the work as a whole in a 150-word commentary. On the backside, visually represent each contrast in an aesthetically pleasing manner. Brochures made on notebook paper and in pencil will have points deducted. Neatness will also have an impact on your grade.

Brochure Requirements:

- Three quotes
- Three 150+ word commentary
- Three visual representations
- Demonstrate creativity

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