

Summer Reading Assignment for English IV AP / GT 2011-2012  
Mesquite High School

Welcome to English IV AP / GT for 2011-2012. Our course of study will include a survey of British Literature. 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 Advanced Placement Exam in Literature. **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).** This course is a college level course, and you are expected to do your reading outside of class—books will not be read to you or time given during class to read; the responsibility of reading rests solely on you.

We will begin the first week of the course with an examination of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. You should read this play over the summer along with *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli. You should also view the Kenneth Branagh version of *Henry V* made in 1989. You may type or neatly print the attached assignments in blue or black ink on unlined paper. The brochure should be done creatively with materials of your choosing. These assignments are due on the day you have English for the first time. Expect a test over *Macbeth* on the second day of English class.

A word to the wise: do not procrastinate. We will be discussing two of these works the first week of school. A brief group presentation over the works will also occur during the first two weeks of school. If you choose to read them at the beginning of summer, refresh your memory before school starts. Also, *The Prince* is a work we will use for the remainder of the semester, and it will show up during the second half of the year as well. This book is imperative to our course of study. I would suggest getting together with friends to read *Macbeth* and view *Henry V*; plays are easier to understand if they are read aloud and discussed with others.

Some of the works we will study in English IV AP / GT include the following:

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Richard III*, and *Hamlet*,  
Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (do not buy)  
*Beowulf* (the Seamus Heaney translation)  
John Gardner's *Grendel*  
William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*  
Dante's *Inferno*  
Excerpts of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (I will provide these—do not buy)  
Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*  
Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

In addition, we will study nearly 1600 years of British Poetry.

These works are classics and can be found at most any bookstore; Amazon would also have them—used copies at that—and offers free shipping on larger orders. Do not wait to purchase the books the week before we will be using them. Buy them now; stores will run out, and you will be left without a book. I have very few copies to check out, and those will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

I look forward to meeting you and studying British literature and other classics together. If you have questions about the summer reading assignment, please come by C9 before the end of the school year.

Mrs. Dershem