

# Trinity Catholic High School

## Advanced Placement Summer Work



# AP Literature & Composition

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Choose one of the novels listed below and annotate that novel, analyzing the literary elements used by the author.

- ❖ Print out and carefully read the directions on how to annotate a text (following page). These directions draw heavily from the book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: The Revised Edition*. While this text is listed in books for this course, consider reading the text early for a better understanding of the literary elements you will analyze in your summer novel. We will be referencing this book at times during the school year.
- ❖ Read one of the following books (it must be one you have NOT yet read!) and ANNOTATE the novel like a professor! In other words, in your annotations **you will identify different elements** used in the novel such as archetypes, symbols, allusions, etc. **AND you will describe how the author uses those elements to develop or emphasize larger ideas.**
  - *1984* by George Orwell
  - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
  - *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
  - *The Robe* by Lloyd C. Douglas
  - *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
  - *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
  - *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald **AND** *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
    - The option to read Fitzgerald and Steinbeck's texts is open only to students who, rather than taking English III American Literature, have taken AP English Language, who, for this reason, did not have the chance to read these novels. Eligible students would need to read and annotate **both** novels if they choose this option.  
(207 pages total)

**REMEMBER - Your choice of novel must be one you have not yet read!**

*You will be asked to hand in your novel at the start of the school year, and we will be evaluating the **quality of your annotation in your chosen novel**. Be prepared to write an in-class literary analysis essay on your summer novel within the first few weeks of school.*

# AP Literature & Composition

## How to Annotate a LITERARY Text

AP English Literature and Composition has a different focus than AP English Language. In AP Lang, students focused on rhetorical analysis that identifies the rhetorical devices that an author uses to *persuade* the reader; however, in AP Lit, students focus on literary analysis and the author's use of literary devices to *convey a theme*.

In your summer reading assignment, you will read and annotate a novel, reading beyond the plot for the layers of meaning created by the literary devices used by the author. Once again, if you need more information on HOW to do this than we've provided here, we recommend that you read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

Annotating involves interacting with the text and making meaning of what you are reading rather than simply reading for plot. At least once a chapter, stop and record OBSERVATIONS about multiple different elements that you see in your summer novel such as quests, acts of communion, archetypes, symbols, allusions, and themes of the novel. Don't simply note the existence of these elements: write a few sentences to elaborate on your observations and connect those observations to the points that the author is making about humanity and life, including points about psychological, historical, political, and/or social issues. If you are writing these observations on a separate piece of paper, provide specific examples and quotes (always follow a quote with the page number) to support them. Annotating a text is a necessary skill for this course and will help you glean the most meaning from a text!

### Reminders:

1. Underline important information, significant passages, and take notes on this information! **Never just underline or highlight something without also including a written note** that explains the reason for its significance.
2. **Questions are part of your notes!** Write them down as you read; they may be answered as you continue to read, but if they aren't, you can ask them during class discussions.
3. Reread sections that you do not understand and look up unfamiliar words. **Write the definitions of unfamiliar words** in the margins.

### Every chapter needs to be annotated. For your annotations, you should consider the following elements:

- **Characters/ Characterization:** As you read, make note of characters and analyze the author's characterization (Indirect/ direct characterization; flat vs. round characters; static vs. dynamic characters; archetypes) — protagonist and antagonist and the names of other significant characters, and try to analyze how the author creates his/her character
- **Narrative Voice:** Identify the POV (narrative voice) and shifts in POV. Note if the voice is one or more of the following: first person, third person omniscient, third person limited, alternating person, stream of consciousness, epistolary, reliable vs. unreliable
- **Setting:** Identify the setting, note changes in setting, and consider the importance of the setting to plot and development of ideas.
- **Juxtapositions:** Identify any noted differences between two subjects, places, persons, things, styles, or ideas
- **Figurative language:** Identify the author's use of figurative language. Examples include metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, imagery, and more!
- **Allusions:** Identify the author's use of common cultural references, often historical, biblical, or mythological (for example, spring as a season of rebirth or representing youth, a journey as a quest, etc.)
- **Diction choices and tone:** Identify the author's attitude toward his/her subject if what they are saying is particularly striking to you. Write the definitions of unfamiliar vocabulary in the margins.
- **Irony:** Identify the author's use of irony. Irony can be shown in three ways: a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant (verbal), what should happen and what does happen (situational), or between what the characters understand and what the readers understand (dramatic)
- **Overall theme:** All of the above should amount to theme and provide an understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole!