

AP English Literature & Composition Summer Work
Mrs. Karen Baxter
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Welcome to AP Literature & Composition! I'm looking forward to our journey together, which will take us from ancient Greece through 20th-century America and beyond to future worlds. It is my hope that you will not only gain college credit by passing the AP Literature exam next spring, but that along the way you will grow in your appreciation for literature and read a few works whose characters and events will stay with you the rest of your life, the way some of my favorites have.

Now on to the matter at hand -- your summer work. **The following assignments are due *before* your first class.** No exceptions, so plan out your work. These assignments combined are worth 100 points of your first quarter grade, plus you will be tested on the material the first week of school and have related assignments over the first couple of weeks.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Purchase and read the following texts. You will need to bring them to class with you every day for the first few weeks of school. This is a literature class; do not rely on Sparknotes, etc. in place of reading the text. If you don't like to read, this probably isn't the class for you!

- *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (ISBN 978-0-316-22333-1).
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (ISBN 978-1-59308-025-9)

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION & GUIDELINES

- Join our Google Classroom using the code **bew488**.
- Sign up for **Remind.com** in case I need to provide clarification or updates to the class over the summer. To do this, text **@cbf3ch** to **81010**.
- All work should be formatted in **MLA style**, 8th edition. A quick Google search will give you plenty of resources on how to do this. Some basics are: 1-inch margins, double space, Times New Roman 12 font, proper heading.
- Triple check spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. It counts on every assignment in this class.
- Create a folder on your school Google Drive account entitled: "AP Lit Last Name First Initial." Ex: "AP Lit Smith J". Once you have created your folder, share it with me, giving me permission to edit. **Email me by May 30 to verify that I have access to your folder.** Place all of your summer work in this folder BEFORE our first class.

*** Any work plagiarized in whole or part will receive a zero. This includes "sharing" work with classmates or "borrowing" information from online or print sources. The only sources you should be using for the summer assignments are the above texts. ***

#1 - *Mythology* Reading & Flashcards Assignment

Allusions to mythology and the Bible are everywhere in literature. Thus, it is important to have a good grounding in well-known myths and Bible stories. This summer, you will focus on myths. Read the following parts of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton:

- Introduction to Classical Mythology
- Part 1
- Part 2
- Part 3
- Part 6

As you read, create **flashcards** to help you remember the stories and their characters. You will be tested on your knowledge of the myths and characters in this book during the first week of school.

#2 - Personal Essay: This is Who I Am

Choose one mythological character you read about in *Mythology* and discuss how this character is a reflection of who you are today. Which god, or hero, or character is most like you? What characteristics do you share? Give specific examples. Title your essay file "Personal Essay: This is Who I Am." Your **essay** should be 250-300 words. (50 pts)

#3 - *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Reading

Read *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. I encourage you to read a bit about the book and author before you begin it and to take **notes** as you read. You may highlight and take notes in the margins or use Post-It notes. Focus on characterization, plot, setting, and your personal thoughts/insights on the novel. Also, note connections you make to any of the myths you read. You will be tested on the novel when you return.

#4 - *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Essay

Upon completion of the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton, write a short **essay** (250-300 words) in which you explain connections to Greek mythology in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Title this assignment "The Picture of Dorian Gray Assignment." (50 pts)

If you have any questions about summer work or the course in general, please feel free to email me.

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Have a great summer!