

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
Summer Reading 2014 – 2015

Students enrolled in AP Literature and Composition / AP English IV need to complete the summer reading assignments prior to the first day of class regardless of the semester. Students will then be evaluated on the readings at the beginning of the semester. Most books are available at the public library, or students may purchase them used or new.

A good strategy to prepare for the evaluations is to annotate important information by writing and/or highlighting in the books if the books are yours, using handwritten sticky notes if they are not. Annotations require close reading that highlights valuable information for review.

- ***A Lesson Before Dying*** by Ernest Gaines
Amazon.com states, “Ernest J. Gaines brings to this novel the same rich sense of place, the same deep understanding of the human psyche, and the same compassion for a people and their struggle that have informed his previous, highly praised works of fiction.”

- ***Tess of the d’Urbervilles*** by Thomas Hardy
The promotion for the Penguin Classic edition of the novel characterizes one of Hardy’s most recognized works by stating, “In a novel full of poetry and mysterious settings, Hardy unfolds the story of his beautiful, suffering Tess with unforgettable tenderness and intensity.”

In addition, students should purchase a copy of *The Elements of Style* for use during the semester.

- ***The Elements of Style*** by Strunk and White
Barnes and Noble describes this style manual as “A fundamental resource for writers, editors, and students since 1959, the slim volume known simply as “Strunk and White” distills the combined wisdom of Cornell University English professor William Strunk Jr. and legendary *New Yorker* writer E. B. White. Though there are other books on the market that delve more deeply into matters of grammar and style, this is the best single source for anyone who desires a pithy, lively guide to the essentials of effective writing. In prose that is itself a paragon of clarity, the authors indicate how to apply the basic principles of grammar and punctuation, how to properly construct a sentence and a paragraph, how to use words and expressions in their proper form and context, and how to avoid the mistakes and mannerisms that make for turgid, pretentious, or simply unintelligible writing. Even professionals who have achieved expertise in the art of written communication will want *The Elements of Style* nearby at all times for support and inspiration.”

Enjoy your summer and the reading!