AP Literature Summer Reading 2019-2020

This year's summer reading assignments are taking a new approach to reading, writing, and art. Each of you will be creating a blog and your assignments/writings will be posted there. Pay attention to assignment and text number **four**. This is where your assignment for your summer novel appears. I suggest you begin reading the novel sooner rather than later. You can find this on the Google Classroom for AP Lit to access all the hyperlinked documents.

Log into your blog- I will give you your custom login information based upon your school email address. Customize your page. Here is a video explaining how you can customize your blog. Ignore the beginning about creating your own blog, as I have already created your blog for you. You will just need to use the provided information to log in. You can customize this as much as you would like. I would suggest having a unique theme and layout to begin with. It should be easy on the eyes (to read) and aesthetically pleasing.

Assignment and Text #1
Text #1: Listen to the podcast Maria Popova on Being Interesting, Creating More Time in a Day, and How to Start a Successful Blog.

Maria Popova spoke elegantly about the power of books and the role that writing has in a well-lived life.

Assignment #1: For your first blog post, choose one idea she expresses in this interview and develop a thorough explanation as to why you found that idea powerful, meaningful, or one with which you wish to disagree. Include the quote and establish its connection (or disconnection) to you. This must be PUBLISHED on your blog by the due date. **Due: June 21, 2019, by 11:59 PM**

Assignment and Text #2
Text # 2: Watch the video Hooper's Nighthawks: A Look Through The Window

Evan Puschak has his own YouTube channel (NerdWriter) in which he offers video essays. I admire these essays that range from art, to film, to politics, to literature. He is thoughtful, well-researched, and has a keen sense of timing and audience awareness. In this video essay he analyzes one of the iconic 20th century American paintings, "Nighthawks." Pay attention to not only what he sees, but also notice the biographical and historical context he weaves into his analysis. I admire how he uses both images and words to teach you about the painting.

Assignment #2: For your second blog post, I want you to choose a work of art that has had meaning to you. It can be a work of literature. It can be a painting. It can be a song. It can be any creative endeavor that you can justify for its artistry. I want you to analyze that work of art

on a similar level to Evan Puschak (the Nerdwriter). If you look at his show notes on the YouTube page for the "Nighthawks" video essay, he has done a fair amount of research. I want you to do the same. Tell me what you value in the work. Tell me why it has artistic merit. But also, excavate relevant information about the artist and place the work in its historical or cultural context. **Due: July 5, 2019, by 11:59 pm**

Assignment and Text #3:

Text #3: Why I read

Assignment #3: Write a blog post about your relationship with reading. Share an honest assessment of the role that it plays in your life. I value honesty over flattery. If reading is not your thing, say it. If you love it, then let me know. I don't care so much which side you take. More important than what you choose is the truth of your reflection. I want to read about why you feel the way that you do. I want to get to know you as a reader. **Due July 19, 2019, by 11:59 pm**

Assignment and Text #4:

Text #4: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Assignment #4: On your blog, do something really interesting about your reading experience. I know that this is vague and undefined but look at it another way. I am empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is write and create something about your reading experience. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome! If you're an aspiring poet- write a poem. If you're an artist, create art. If you're an actor, create a scene or video. Show off who you are by creating something which relates to the novel in some way. This will have to be published on your blog as a post. So, if you create art, you will need to take pictures and upload. **NOTE- You will take a test on this novel during the first week of school. This should be a creativity-based assignment for after reading the entire novel. You will want to pay attention to the due date and manage your time so you have the entire novel read by the due date of this blog. **Due August 9, 2019, by 11:59 pm**

Assignment and Text #5

Text #5: 10 Essential Books to Enchant Teenagers with Poetry

Assignment #5: Choose any poetry collection mentioned in the article on Brain Pickings and find three poems that resonate with you. I want you to see the complexity in each of the poems. Write a poetic analysis for each of the three poems on your blog. Look for parts that are interrelated. Find the individual aspects of the poem unite to create a whole. Here is a good

example of a complex analysis of a popular middle school poem. A more sophisticated analysis of an e.e. Cummings poem can be found [here.](#) **Due, August 22, 2019, by 11:59 pm**

Summer Reading Due Dates

Assignment #1   **June 21, 2019**

Assignment #2   **July 5, 2019**

Assignment #3   **July 19, 2019**

Assignment #4   **August 9, 2019**

Assignment #5   **August 22, 2019**

*All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the above-stated date. All assignments must be completed and PUBLISHED on your blog by that time. Assignments will not be accepted in any other fashion. Points will be deducted as detailed in the BLHS Handbook policy for late work. You are welcome and encouraged to turn in work EARLY.