

Summer Reading Assignment: Pre-AP English II

Purpose:

One of our goals in this Pre-AP English course is to prepare you for the AP English classes. Yet, our accelerated block schedule at Kerr limits the time we have to read novels during the school year. To make up for some of that time, you will need to read some of our more challenging books during the summer. This way, you can take more time thinking through the deeper meanings of each work. As a class, we will re-visit these works, by addressing and analyzing the selections offered on the summer reading list.

Novel Choices:

This year, we will be focusing on multi-cultural studies. I hope the sometimes painful, ethical, and social issues encountered by these characters, many of whom are similar to your age, will create an interest in learning about other cultures, and encourage reading novels outside your comfort zone. Most of these books have appeared on the AP literature test one or more times. They are, therefore, not ‘Young Adult’ when it comes to subject matter.

This part of your summer reading assignment requires you to choose a pairing of books which you can choose from the list of below. Each novel will consist of literature circle assignments and discussion, research about its’ culture and historical significance, as well as a research paper when you return from school, so make sure you do not make this choice lightly.

Book Titles:

- a) *Out of the Silent Planet:* by C.S.Lewis: This is the first book in an epic space trilogy, where the main character, Dr. Ransom is abducted by a physicist and taken to a red planet called Malacandra. Once there, he must do what he can to elude his captors and make it back to Earth, yet, along the way he comes to find out just how similar this new planet is to his home world.

Paired novel: *Brave New World by Aldous Huxley:* a dystopian novel written in 1931 by English author Aldous Huxley, and published in 1932. Largely set in a futuristic World State of genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation, and classical conditioning that are combined to make a utopian society that goes challenged only by a single outsider.

- b) *The Star-Touched Queen:* by Roshani Chokshi: Maya is cursed. With a horoscope that promises a marriage of death and destruction, she has earned only the scorn and fear of her father’s kingdom. Content to follow more scholarly pursuits, her whole world is torn apart when her father, the Raja, arranges a wedding of political convenience to quell outside rebellions. Soon Maya becomes the queen of Akaran and wife of Amar. Neither roles are what she expected: As Akaran’s queen, she finds her voice and power. As Amar’s wife, she finds something else entirely: Compassion. Protection

Paired novel: *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton: this is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, this is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

- c) *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. This morning, Kady thought breaking up with Ezra was the hardest thing she'd have to do. This afternoon, her planet was invaded. The year is 2575, and two rival mega-corporations are at war over a planet that's little more than an ice-covered speck at the edge of the universe. Too bad nobody thought to warn the people living on it. With enemy fire raining down on them, Kady and Ezra—who are barely even talking to each other—are forced to fight their way onto an evacuating fleet, with an enemy warship in hot pursuit.

Paired novel: *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima enters his life. She is a curandera, one who heals with herbs and magic. 'We cannot let her live her last days in loneliness,' says Antonio's mother. 'It is not the way of our people,' agrees his father. And so Ultima comes to live with Antonio's family in New Mexico. Soon Tony will journey to the threshold of manhood.

- d) *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang. When Rin aced the Keju, the Empire-wide test to find the most talented youth to learn at the Academies, it was a shock to everyone: to the test officials, who couldn't believe a war orphan from Rooster Province could pass without cheating; to Rin's guardians, who believed they'd finally be able to marry her off and further their criminal enterprise; and to Rin herself, who realized she was finally free of the servitude and despair that had made up her daily existence. That she got into Sinegard, the most elite military school in Nikan, was even more surprising.

Paired novel: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name.

Materials Needed:

- Novels of choice. Be prepared to buy both.
- One **spiral notebook**, 70 or more pages, college-ruled suggested.
- Pen (blue or black) or pencil (dark lead only please).

Set Up Your Notebook:

- On the inside cover, please put your name and advisor teacher in bold letters!
- Divide the notebook into 4 sections: Grammar, Fiction (your summer reading work goes here!), Nonfiction, Poetry, Writing, and Vocabulary.
- **You must handwrite your notes!** Typed notes will not be accepted.
- You will use approximately 10 pages for your Summer Reading. The pages you have left over can be used for work you do throughout your English II Pre-AP course.



Make sure to cite each item of information in the Cornell Notes. Include the author's name and page # like you were taught in class. For example: (Hawthorne 7).

DEADLINES:

1. All assigned work for both Summer Reading is due **Wednesday, August 28th**. Regardless of Fall or Spring semester enrollment, your work must be submitted on this date.
2. **If you are enrolled for the spring semester, please make arrangements to take the Summer Reading exam during any period on Wednesday, August 28th.** Your exam will consist of one timed essay, written in class. You will have the full period to complete the essay, and you will be able to use your summer reading assignment to help you with your essay. The exam will count as one major grade.

Novels of Choice Instructions:

- **For each novel chosen**, select **five** chapters from each book: one from the beginning, three for the middle, and one from the end.
- **Each** set of Cornell Notes must have at least ten bulleted items in the record section, appropriate topics in the recall section, and an effective summary 5-7 sentences long in the reduce section.
- Your recall section should focus on the major conflicts, character development, and theme(s). Your record section should provide a **mix** of quotes, details and commentary. Your reduce section should summarize and explain the significance of the notes taken for that chapter and their connection to the book in general.
- If you follow the directions above and use the model as a guide, you will use about five sheets of notebook paper for each section.

