

English 501A, AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading 2022-23

Dear Incoming Advanced Placement English and Composition student,

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience.

Select one novel from the list that follows. Consider how a specific character within the work experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then gather evidence that reveals the character’s experience and which will help you to explore and to discuss how exile is both **alienating**¹ and **enriching**².

alienating¹: to make someone feel isolated, distant, detached from something, whether concrete or abstract
enriching²: to improve, to enhance, or to supplement

Option 1: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (suggested ISBN: 978-0393264876)

Description: Published in 1847, Bronte’s novel ranks as one of the greatest and most perennially popular works of English fiction. Although the poor but plucky heroine is outwardly of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. She is forced to battle against the exigencies of a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order. All of which circumscribe her life and position when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr Rochester. However, there is great kindness and warmth in this epic love story, which is set against the magnificent backdrop of the Yorkshire moors.

Option 2: *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (suggested ISBN: 978-0451530066)

Description: Published in 1866, Dostoyevsky’s novel is a study of guilt and power, chronicling the experiences of Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, who wanders through St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Porfiry, a suspicious detective, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck. Dostoyevsky’s dark masterpiece evokes a world where the lines between innocence and corruption, good and evil, blur and everyone’s faith in humanity is tested.

Option 3: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (suggested ISBN: 978-0393284997)

Description: Published in 1847, Bronte’s novel is one of the most famous love stories in the English language. It is also, one of the most potent revenge narratives. Its ingenious narrative structure, vivid evocation of landscape, and the extraordinary power of its depiction of love and hatred have given it a unique place in English literature. The passionate tale of Catherine and Heathcliff makes for a powerful and compelling novel with oddness and power, amorality, and the sadistic violence embodied in the character of Heathcliff.

As you read your selection, read **SLOWLY** and thoughtfully (you have the whole summer, after all); strive to fully appreciate and to engage with the text, asking yourself what this author seeks to convey about being human. As you do so, thoughtfully highlight and annotate **quality representative passages illustrating characters (probably the protagonist’s) responses to being “cut off from home”**. Pay particular attention, making certain to find examples of **both** what could be perceived as alienation **AND** enrichment. Make certain to have marked passages throughout the work, *not* just during the first 50 pages or the last chapter.

You will then utilize these annotations to construct **a set of typed notes with six (6) passages** addressing the same elements as the example that follows, which utilizes William Golding’s *The Lord of the Flies* for the sake of illustration. **Your notes MUST be typed, as you will submit a digital copy to www.turnitin.com by the start of our second class meeting.**

This product will be one of your first grades for the semester, and the resulting knowledge will provide the source material that you will utilize for your first writing assignment for the course. With this in mind, read and annotate thoughtfully. The more you engage with and interact with the text, the more prepared you will be for the writing assignments that you will complete upon your return.

All students are expected to ***do their own thinking***; embrace the task and appreciate that learning and growth actually happens when you struggle and overcome those struggles, **NOT** when you side step or avoid them. **The use of sources beyond the specified texts (for example, *SparkNotes*, *LitGuides*, or other online sources that digest the reading and do the thinking for you) will be considered a breach of academic honesty.** Students will be required to submit the completed notes assignment to www.turnitin.com during the second week of classes.

I do hope that you genuinely enjoy the text that you select, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reactions upon our return in late August. Please don't hesitate to email me at ccicoria@asparis.fr should you have any questions or concerns as you work on the assignment.

Sample Notes:

(you will compose six (6) of these—6 entries in all, for a total of 24 points—medium assessment)

Work Title: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

| <p>Document the Precise Location</p> <p>*note: both page number AND where/what on the page is required for this point **note: the location should span <u>no more</u> than 2 pages.</p> | <p>Summarize the Situation in the Text</p> <p>*note: this is NOT a quote—it is a paraphrase of the passage with <u>limited, if any</u>, direct quotation. **note: it does NOT <i>interpret</i> the text. This is factual information as to what occurs in a very narrow portion of the text, in your own words.</p> | <p>Discuss how the selected situation reveals the <u>impact of exile on the central character as being somewhere on the spectrum between enriching or alienating.</u></p> |
|---|--|---|
| <p>The last paragraph starting at the very bottom of page 156 until the bottom of page 157 where Ralph looks out at the sea</p> | <p>In this passage, Ralph thinks about his present situation, wishing that he could cut his hair and wash with soap. While noting this, he also examines the similarly dirty and poorly dressed hunters sitting nearby with the memory of his “sometime clean self” as a measure, and that their clothes are now donned due to habit not due to a sense of propriety. His thoughts result in sadness since this is what they all see now as normal. (78 words)</p> | <p>Ralph’s reminiscing about being clean and “in proper order” shows how life on the island is serving to alienate him from the basic values and customs that were once a part of daily life. This is especially true when the reflection brings him to sadness since he recognizes that it is affecting him as well, not just the other boys. As a group, they could have maintained some of those values, but time on the island has distanced them from their true identities as proper English boys and made this near impossible to maintain. The impact is even more telling since Ralph feels sadness, almost mourning the loss like a death. (111 words)</p> |

Grading Guidelines/Rubric:

→ Each entry will be worth 4 points, and you will complete 6 entries in all for a total of 24 points; this will count as a medium assessment. Refer to the following criteria for clarity on how points will be awarded.

| <p>Document the Precise Location</p> | <p>Summarize the Situation in the Text</p> | <p>Discussion of Motives and Reasoning</p> |
|--|--|---|
| <p>(1 point/entry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Includes specific page number(s). ✓ Includes detail as to precise location on the page(s). | <p>(1 point/entry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Accurately paraphrases the specific passage in your own words ✓ Uses direct quotation in only a very limited manner, if at all. ✓ Does not interpret the text, only recounts the facts of the text. ✓ Is in complete sentences and grammatically sound. ✓ Covers/spans NO MORE than two pages, maximum. | <p>(2 points/entry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pointedly addresses specific details in the selected portion of the text. ✓ Analyzes specific details for ideas and meanings beyond the literal. ✓ Clearly and succinctly connects the passage to elements of alienation and/or enrichment. |