

OAKBROOK SUMMER READING 2020

Rising Seniors (12th) in AP English Literature

AP English Literature students will read and write essays on *Death of a Salesman* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Students will also be tested on *The Glass Menagerie* during the first week of class.

Read the unabridged versions of the following texts. Respond to the prompts in well-written essays due on the first day of class. **Do not consult secondary sources.** Bring your essays to class on the first day of school. See the attached guidelines and definition of plagiarism.

(In the advent of online instruction to start the school year, directions for submission of summer work will be communicated to students and parents.)

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller (Essay)

Many works of literature depict a conflict between a parent and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict between Willy and Biff Loman and explain how their conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams (Essay and Test)

In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, is a significant presence. In *The Glass Menagerie*, Mr. Wingfield is a “fifth character in the play who doesn’t appear” except in a photograph. Write an essay in which you show how Mr. Wingfield functions in the work. You may wish to discuss how his character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters. Avoid plot summary.

Any serious study of English literature requires knowledge of certain background materials which will not only make the study more enjoyable but also add to understanding and appreciation. Familiarity with the following is necessary and required.

Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* (an indispensable reference source—seriously, read it!)

Selected readings from the **King James Bible**:

Genesis	1:1-3:24 (The Creation and the Fall)
	4:1-15 (The First Murder)
	6:5-9:17 (The Flood)
	11:1-9 (The Origin of Language)
Isaiah	52:13-53:12

Luke	2:1-52 (The Birth and Youth of Jesus)
Matthew	5:1-7:29 (The Sermon on the Mount)
Luke	15:1-32 (The Parables of Jesus)
Matthew	26:14-75 (The Betrayal of Jesus)
	27: 1-66 (The Passion of Christ)
	28:1-20 (The Resurrection)

The Divine Comedy by Dante (optional but highly recommended)

Read the summary appearing at the beginning of each Canto.

Inferno (all)

Purgatorio (Cantos I, II, XIX, XXVII, XXX, XXXI)

Paradisio (Cantos I, III, XXI, XXXII, XXXIII)

MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.** Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person, one who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour." This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In the poem "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9) of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like "a rut in the road" (Hurston 72); Janie has no hope for the future.

- 5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
- 6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- 7. Do not use contractions.**
- 8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).**
- 9. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>**
- 10. Include an 8th edition MLA Works Cited page.**

Summing Up Plagiarism

You have plagiarized if...

- you took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from the notes as if it were your own.
- while browsing the Web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- you repeated or paraphrased someone's wording without acknowledgement.
- you took someone's unique or particularly appropriate phrase without acknowledgement.
- you paraphrased someone's argument or presented someone's line of thought without acknowledgement.
- you bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.

Prevent plagiarism by...

- making a list of the writers and viewpoints you discovered in your research and using this list to double-check the presentation of material in your paper.
- keeping the following three categories distinct in your notes: your ideas, your summaries of others' material, and exact wording you copy.
- identifying the sources of all material you borrow—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.
- checking with your instructor when you are uncertain about your use of sources.

~ from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition