

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 2019-20

Mr. Gladding

This AP class is rigorous! You must love to read challenging literature and be ready to tackle non-fiction critical theory texts. You must also enjoy drafting and revising your writing, and be open to trying different approaches as a way to develop, broaden and deepen your style and voice. Active, thoughtful participation in discussions is vital. Role play will be used throughout; we will hone your instincts and tease out your intuitions.

Some of the texts will run in tandem with the regular American Literature class, but you will often be expected to read twice as much in one night because this is also a COMPOSITION class. Starting immediately in September we will be building the habits and approaches you will need to tackle three major essays in under two hours that are part of this AP Exam. This means that one night you might have a double reading assignment, and the next be expected to draft a piece of writing connected to your reading.

There are additionally more challenging texts that we will tackle, such as KING LEAR, selections from MOBY DICK, poetry from various eras, and shorter works from the *Perrine's Literature* textbook that break down elements of style in various genres. If you are not comfortable reading for 90 to 120 minutes on any given night, or mastering literary elements or critical theory concepts, or being challenged to write more in depth and more engagingly, you should strongly consider whether this course is for you.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT #1

Over July and early August you will read THE CIRCLE by Dave Eggers and FEED by M.T. Anderson. Both are set in futuristic dystopian worlds and are good summer reads. The challenge for you is not so much in the reading as in how you *respond*, and how you *write engagingly*. Suggested: keep a reading journal and throw down post its as you read.

For the writing assignment you will craft an “evaluative essay” that explores, compares and contrasts the future worlds created by these authors. Essay is a loose term – perhaps you will get/create more enjoyment if you imagine you are writing for a dystopian literary journal (rather than for school). Interpret specific passages/quotes from the two books as you break down and evaluate the larger similarities and differences in the issues and ideas Eggers and Anderson are exploring. You *MUST* address and compare the authors’ messages – what are they communicating in myriad ways through plot, style, how they construct their worlds and characterization. *FIND YOUR VOICE* – this is a creative class!

You may structure this however you like, but it should be revised multiple times so that it is not shorter than 2 pages (double-spaced) or longer than 3. There should be a forward movement (not a repetition of ideas), and you *MUST* make it engaging to an audience of your peers or others who **have read** these books (no plot summary!).

You will email me this by Sunday, August 18th at rgladding@erhsnyc.net

Make it a PDF and title it with your name and a title of your choice. Submitting this assignment is necessary to maintain your enrollment in AP Literature & Composition.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT #2 – the school wide reading book – due 1st day of school.