

# SUMMER READING

## Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition: Grade 12

<p>DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage a love of reading</li> <li>• Engage students in reading and responding to high-quality literature (written assessments)</li> <li>• Foster critical reading skills</li> <li>• Expand vocabulary</li> </ul>	<p>REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read one book from each list.</li> </ul> <p>ESSENTIAL QUESTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does an author use language to convey meaning?</li> </ul>
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### ASSESSMENT:

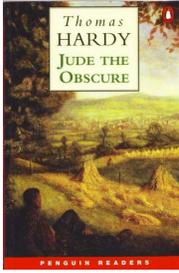
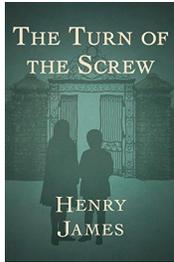
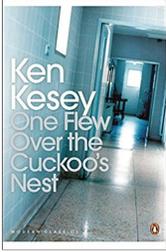
You will be asked to write one essay for each of the three books that you read for this course over the summer. The essay's prompt will ask you to analyze how the elements of literature contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole. A list of prompts from past AP English Literature and Composition Exam, are available at [https://mseffie.com/iOpeners/Open\\_Questions.pdf](https://mseffie.com/iOpeners/Open_Questions.pdf) . The rubric for these essays follows the scoring guidelines for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam and is available at [goo.gl/M15amy](http://goo.gl/M15amy) .

The following book descriptions come from Amazon.com.

List A		<p><i>The Awakening</i>, by Kate Chopin: Edna Pontellier, living in Louisiana at the turn of the twentieth century, struggles to gain independence from the expectations society has for her as a mother and wife. It is one of the earliest American novels that focuses on women's issues without condescension. It is also widely seen as a landmark work of early feminism, generating a mixed reaction from contemporary readers and critics.</p>
		<p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>, by Zora Neale Hurston: Against the backdrop of Antebellum South, Janie Crawford tells of her coming-of-age. One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurstons' classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.</p>

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List B		<p><i>Jude the Obscure</i>, by Thomas Hardy: Jude Fawley, a mason in southern Victorian England, wrestles with poverty and convention as he attempts to fulfill his professional and personal desires. The novel follows the life of Jude from his youth living in a village in southern England where he works in a bakery and studies Classical Greek and Latin in his spare time with hopes of one day becoming a scholar at Christminster, a fictional city modeled after Oxford. His dreams are dashed however when he becomes ensnared by deceit into marriage with Arabella Donn, a coarse and superficial girl. What follows is a classic and tragic tale that plays upon many themes, principally of which is the idea that one's ruinous downfall is the product of having lived a sinful life.</p>
		<p><i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, by Jane Austen: Set in England in the early 19th century, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> tells the story of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's five unmarried daughters after the rich and eligible Mr. Bingley and his status-conscious friend, Mr. Darcy, have moved into their neighborhood. While Bingley takes an immediate liking to the eldest Bennet daughter, Jane, Darcy has difficulty adapting to local society and repeatedly clashes with the second-eldest Bennet daughter, Elizabeth. Though Austen set the story at the turn of the 19th century, it retains a fascination for modern readers, continuing near the top of lists of "most loved books."</p>
List C		<p><i>The Turn of the Screw</i>, by Henry James: A governess wonders if a ghost haunts her charges, Miles and Flora, in this Victorian gothic novella. Due to its original content, <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> became a favorite text of academics who subscribe to New Criticism. The novella has had differing interpretations, often mutually exclusive. Many critics have tried to determine the exact nature of the evil hinted at by the story. However, others have argued that the brilliance of the novella results from its ability to create an intimate sense of confusion and suspense within the reader.</p>
		<p><i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> by Ken Kesey: In this classic novel, Ken Kesey's hero is Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched. He promotes gambling in the ward, smuggles in wine and women, and openly defies the rules at every turn. But this defiance, which starts as a sport, soon develops into a grim struggle, an all-out war between two relentless opponents: Nurse Ratched, backed by the full power of authority, and McMurphy, who has only his own indomitable will. What happens when Nurse Ratched uses her ultimate weapon against McMurphy provides the story's shocking climax.</p>

To help you make a choice, there are many websites that can give you insight into the contents of these books including: synopsis - [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and ratings for elements [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)