

Col. Zadok Magruder High School
Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignments

2015

I hope you enjoy reading these two selections of literature and look forward to learning your thoughts on these works in the fall. Please read the following requirements carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to email me, Ms. Dickey:

Claire_H_Dickey@mcpsmd.org.

First, please beware that I am not interested in what SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, or any other websites say about these texts. I want to hear what you think, so do the reading and the writing components *on your own*.

Secondly, don't procrastinate! Each of these works is a rich and engaging text. If you wait until the last minute, you will not be fully prepared to engage in class discussions the first week of school.

King Lear
By William Shakespeare

There is no one theme for a piece of literature nor is there one way to read a text.

King Lear can be read and interpreted through a variety of lenses. Choose **TWO** of the four below and discuss how the play can be seen through each particular lens. Establish how Shakespeare uses family, politics, the roles and rights of women in society, and/or the stories a culture tells and retells to create this tragedy:

- a family drama
- a political drama
- a feminist drama
- a fairy tale

Length? Approximately ten well-developed sentences. Use specific examples from the text to make your case. Remember to reflect on the whole text – not just one act or scene.

The Awakening
By Kate Chopin

AP Literature requires as readers we focus not just on what an author says but also how he or she says it – what literary devices are used, what threads are created, what paths the author takes us down as we appreciate a work.

As you read *The Awakening*, sticky-note passages that stand out to you as pivotal, enlightening, intriguing, or revealing. Choose three passages on which you wish to focus. The passages should be 4-6 paragraphs in length. Xerox/scan or retype these passages and annotate each by:

- writing questions or comments in the margins
- underlining key words/phrases
- noting patterns of literary devices such as diction, imagery, metaphor, symbolism, detail, irony, allusion, foreshadowing, motifs...
- marking character traits and motivations

The annotations should reflect a close reading of that particular passage.

After each annotated passage, write a paragraph entitled “What I Think.” This paragraph is a place for you to share your ideas and questions with me. It is not an essay or piece of formal writing but rather a place for you to engage with the text.

When you have annotated and responded in writing to all three passages, write a final response (approximately ten well-developed sentences) looking at the three passages again, but this time *as a whole*. In other words, how do these three passages together speak to your understanding of the novel? Hint: *As a whole* is used in AP LIT to mean a *theme* of the novel.

The following must be complete by the 2nd day of class: Tuesday, September 1, 2015:

- 1. TWO written responses for *King Lear***
- 2. THREE annotated passages for *The Awakening* with**
- 3. THREE “What I Think” paragraphs stapled to the front of their respective passages**
- 4. ONE final written response for *The Awakening***

****We will go to the computer lab the first week of school where you will submit #1, #3 and #4 above to your turnitin account (if you don’t have a turnitin account, you will create one then). You must have your documents saved in WORD via e-mail, google docs, or flash drive in order to make your submission.**

****Also, the above texts and your work with them will be the focus of group-work and class discussion during the first week of class.**