



12th Grade AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the following Advance Placement novels:

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Choose at least ONE book from the choice above. You will be expected to discuss your chosen book and write a placement essay on the novel during the first week of school. The essay topics require you to explain the novel's character development and major thematic implications. All novels above illustrate either a 1) coming of age theme (meaning it showcases the physical, moral, and/or psychological development of the protagonist from youth to maturation) and/or 2) a complex family relationship theme. All essays will be completed **in class** within the first week of school, and will serve as an initial assessment of 12th AP Writing Ability. When leveling classes, scores on initial assessments will be considered. Use the questions below to guide your annotations.

During week one of class, you will be asked to:

1. Identify important quotes and passages that you find significant
2. Identify important characters and significant themes
 - a. How does the character(s) change and develop over time?
 - b. How does the author develop the themes throughout various scenes in the novel?
3. Examine connections from the novel to your life, our larger society, and historical implications
4. Identify what you liked and disliked about the books and explain your reasons.
5. Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not?

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the 12th AP teacher at Laura.Washington@detroitk12.org
Happy Reading!

“One major factor separates high school graduates who are ready for college from those who aren't, a new study shows: how well students handle complex reading.” (Education on NBC News, 2006)