



Class of 2012

May 2010

Dear Honors Student:

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition (English 3AP)! We're looking forward to working with you and wish you every success in the upcoming year.

English 3AP is a rigorous class intended to refine your reading, writing, and analytical skills such that you can successfully complete the AP English Language and Composition Exam. To that end, we have extremely high expectations of you.

The first such expectation is that you read **TWO novels** over the summer, one required by us and one chosen by you. We ask that you read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and another selection from the list attached to this letter. The novels encompass a panorama of American experiences: rich and poor, black and Asian, native born and immigrant, male and female, adult and adolescent. The second expectation is that you read **THREE required essays and TWO of your own choosing** from the book *The Best American Essays of 2007*.

Because we will discuss these novels and essays in class, we are requiring that you highlight and/or make margin notes as you read. In addition, you should flag significant passages with post-it notes. Issues you should focus on include the following:

- How might the context in which this text was written have influenced the speaker/writer? How might the way contemporary (modern day) readers interpret this text differ from that of the original audience?
- What is the speaker/writer's purpose and what language devices does s/he rely upon to achieve that purpose?
- For whom do you think this text is/was written? What evidence do you have to support this?
- Define the writer's style. Juxtapose this style with that of your other summer reading selections. What words (diction) and sentence types (syntax) does s/he use that distinguish her/him from other writers?

In addition to being great literature, the novels and essays we've selected are also perennial favorites among our students. We hope you agree. Enjoy your summer reading!

Sincerely,

Jake Novak

Eric Lemke

Rebecca Fornelli

James Hultgren

**AP English Language and Composition  
Summer Reading Choices**

**ALL STUDENTS MUST READ THIS NOVEL**

F. Scott Fitzgerald     *The Great Gatsby*

Many consider *The Great Gatsby* the closest thing to the Great American Novel ever written. First published in 1925, it is the timeless story of Jay Gatsby and his love for Daisy Buchanan during an era of jazz and decadence.

**STUDENTS ALSO CHOOSE TO READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NOVELS**

**1800-1865: The Romantic Period**

James Fenimore Cooper	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>
Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The House of Seven Gables</i>
Nathaniel Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
Herman Melville	<i>Bartleby, the Scrivener</i>
Harriet Beecher Stowe	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>

**1865-1890: The Realistic Period**

Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i> (the adult version)
Henry James	<i>Daisy Miller</i>
Mark Twain	<i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>
William D. Howells	<i>The Rise of Silas Lapham</i>

**1890-1910: The Naturalistic Period**

Charles Chesnutt	<i>The Conjure Woman and Other Tales</i>
Theodore Dreiser	<i>Sister Carrie</i>
Hamlin Garland	<i>Main Traveled Roads</i>
Frank Norris	<i>McTeague</i>
Upton Sinclair	<i>The Jungle</i>

**1910-1939: American Modernist Period**

Sherwood Anderson	<i>Winesburg Ohio</i>
William Faulkner	<i>As I Lay Dying</i>
Ernest Hemingway	<i>In Our Time</i>
John Steinbeck	<i>Tortilla Flat</i>
Edith Wharton	<i>The House of Mirth</i>
Edith Wharton	<i>The Age of Innocence</i>

## 1920's: Harlem Renaissance

Nella Larsen                      *Passing*  
Zora Neale Hurston              *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

## 1939-present: The Contemporary Period

Sherman Alexie                      *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven*  
Maya Angelou                      *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*  
Ralph Ellison                      *Invisible Man*  
Cormac McCarthy                      *All the Pretty Horses*  
Toni Morrison                      *The Bluest Eye*  
Amy Tan                      *Kitchen God's Wife*  
J.D. Salinger                      *The Catcher in the Rye*  
Jack Kerouac                      *On the Road*  
Paul Auster                      *Mr. Vertigo*  
James Baldwin                      *Go Tell it on the Mountain*  
Robert Olen Butler                      *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*  
Frank Chin                      *Donald Duk*  
Edward P. Jones                      *The Known World*  
Jhumpa Lahiri                      *Unaccustomed Earth*  
Larry McMurtry                      *Deadman's Walk*  
Tim O'Brien                      *The Things They Carried*  
Flannery O'Connor                      *Wise Blood*  
Annie Proulx                      *Close Range*  
Thomas Pynchon                      *The Crying of Lot 49*  
Tom Wolfe                      *A Man in Full*  
Leslie Marmon Silko                      *Ceremony*  
Kurt Vonnegut                      *Slaughterhouse Five*  
Bharati Mukherjee                      *Jasmine*

## ALL STUDENTS MUST ALSO READ 5 ESSAYS FROM THIS BOOK

Robert Atwan and David Foster Wallace editors      *The Best American Essays 2007*

### REQUIRED ESSAYS

Peter Singer                      "What Should a Billionaire Give--And What Should You?"  
Jerald Walker                      "Dragon Slayers"  
Roger Scruton                      "A Carnivore's Credo"

### SELECT 2 ESSAYS ON YOUR OWN