

AP LITERATURE

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

All summer reading work for this course is due on the **FIRST** day of school. Failure to turn in any part of the summer reading assignment on the first day will result in removal from the class. Please contact me at cburnette@bullochacademy.com with any questions! Summer reading for AP Literature will consist of 2 assignments.

#1: Choose ONE of the following books:

- **The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards:** On a winter night in 1964 in Lexington, Kentucky, a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child herself. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century—in which these two families, ignorant of each other, are yet bound by the fateful decision made that winter night long ago.
- **Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng** In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

After reading the novel of your choice, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. They may be handwritten or typed. These questions require AT LEAST a paragraph to answer completely. You will use these answers for a project during the first week of school, so be sure that each question has been thoughtfully and completely answered!

1. In ONE paragraph, summarize the plot of the novel without giving away everything that happens. Provide the basics (who, what, when, where, and why).
2. Identify the major tensions/conflicts in the novel. What is the root cause of the conflict between each character/group you have mentioned?

3. Discuss the meaning of the work as a whole. Not the plot here, but what you think the author was trying to tell us through writing the work. (Remember: theme is a STATEMENT, not just one word).
4. Choose one section of the book that was particularly moving/striking to you and explain why you chose it. What stood out to you about this section? What was the impact of this section on the overall plot?
5. Choose three examples of figurative language used throughout the novel and explain the author's purpose in using that device in the passage. How does it impact your reading?
6. In your opinion, what are the two most important topics/ideas in this novel? Explain how these topics/ideas are developed throughout the novel. These two words/phrases should summarize the plot and the overall meaning of the text. (Ex: family, secrets, regret, etc.)

#2: Poetry Vocabulary

A large portion of AP Literature is dedicated to understanding and analyzing poetry. Poetry is the genre we tend to resist because it does not follow the same patterns as prose, making it sometimes confusing.

Familiarize yourself with the poetry "vocabulary" words- many of these are already familiar literary devices. **We will take a quiz over these terms during the second week of school!!** They can be found in this Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/_6111rd (the Quizlet has also been posted on your Google Classroom for your convenience).

Choose 3 poems that you enjoy and bring them with you to class on the first day of school. You do not have to do any writing with them this summer, but be prepared to explain what you like about the poem. IN OTHER WORDS - if you don't think it has "merit" and could be analyzed using some of the poetry vocabulary words, don't choose it!

If you need help looking for poems...

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/browse-poems-poets>

<https://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/>

Of course, you can also use Google to look for poems about a specific topic!