Dear AP Students and Parents:

Congratulations! You or your son or daughter has been accepted for enrollment in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition for the upcoming 2019 school year. The rigorous curriculum for this course is designed to provide academic stimulation for students who are excited about literature and writing.

Exposure to a wide range of literary genres and themes is crucial to this course; therefore, each student will be required to read three texts before school resumes in August. The chosen works cover many recurring themes in literature. These books and their themes will be referenced throughout the year in conjunction with the other required readings and objectives for the course.

The following books can be found online, in a public library, and/or in bookstores:

1. Choose ONE of the following two: *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (Ballantine Books—paperback) or *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (Vintage—paperback)
2. Choose ONE of the following four: *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, *Emma* by Jane Austen, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, or *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy (any edition)
3. *100 Best Loved Poems* edited by Phillip Smith (Dover Thrift—paperback) At least one poem each by John Donne, William Blake, William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, and William Butler Yeats as well as five other poems by five different authors of your choice.

**Assignment:** Reading logs for each text. The directions for this assignment are printed on the back. Poetry should be read for complete and thorough understanding. An excellent resource for understanding poetry is by reading articles on the poems found on Google Scholar or the Galileo database (password can be found on the WHS media center website) especially those from *The Explicator* (most available as full text).

All reading must be completed by **Monday 12 August 2019**. The reading logs will be due on that day, and on that same day, students should be prepared for a pre-discussion quiz on each book. Students should make sure they have an electronic copy of the text saved but should NOT email that file to me. Submissions via email will NOT be graded.

I am anticipating a productive year in which we will all learn from each other. If you have any questions, you may e-mail me at watkinsd@fultonschools.org or visit our class blog at [http://snoopy3072.wordpress.com](http://snoopy3072.wordpress.com). If I’m out of town for an extended period, and you need assistance, you can also try Mrs. Hernandez’s Remind account: text the message @ibaph2019 to the number 81010. I look forward to working with all of you. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Watkins
Summer Reading Assignment
AP Literature and Composition
Mr. D. Watkins

Reading Log Assignment

Your summer reading assignment is to keep a typed reading log for *A Prayer for Owen Meany* or *Invisible Man*, a Victorian novel, and 100 Best Loved Poems. **A summary of what happens or a paraphrase of a poem is not acceptable.** Each time you read, follow the guidelines below for the reading log:

1. Title your entry as follows:
   
   Date:
   Title of Work:
   Author:
   Time Read (length):
   From Page____ to Page____

2. Write a response to your reading. Write at least one solid paragraph of response to the question or questions you choose. While they need not be literary analysis per se, written entries are your thoughts, reactions, interpretations, questions of what you are reading, your process as a reader and a writer. The entire purpose is to show evidence of **active** reading and thinking. You must have at least twenty typed entries (ten (one each for the poems and the other ten divided as you wish between the two novels as long as neither novel gets less than three).

You may:

**Quote or point out**—Quote a part of what you are reading that you feel is an example of good writing - sentence, paragraph, phrase, etc. What did you like about the quote? Why do you feel this is good writing?

**Experience/memories**—How does this piece of writing make you feel and think? Does this piece remind you of anything? What comes to mind when you are reading this piece of writing? Talk about these experiences in writing. What made you think of them?

**Reactions**—Do you love/hate/feel you can’t stop reading this piece? Talk about your reactions to this reading and reasons why you felt this way.

**Questions**—What confuses you? What don’t you understand? Why do you think the author did something in a particular way? What would you have done as the writer? Try to answer your own questions.

**Evaluation**—How does this piece of writing compare to other things you have read? What makes it an effective or ineffective piece of writing? Why do you like it or not like it?

**Response to your reading**—Respond to the book in the best way suited for you as a reader as long as you avoid retelling the story. **SUMMARY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Literary analysis is not required**—just read, think, and show me your thinking!