

Round Rock High School - Advanced Placement Program 2019 Summer Reading

GRADE LEVEL: Incoming 12th graders
CLASS: AP Literature

PURPOSE OF SUMMER READING

Your AP teachers share your passion for knowledge and dedication to excellence, and they look forward to working with you next year. In order to increase your chances for success as an AP student, it is important for you to stay intellectually engaged (especially during those long summer months of unstructured time) so that you continue to grow as a scholar. Therefore, RRHS requires that all AP students participate in a summer reading program. The short stories you read during the summer is a great way to begin the new school year with a shared experience for discussion and writing. In addition, the summer reading selections will deepen your close reading and analysis skills - skills that are extremely important to your success in AP English Literature.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SUMMER READING

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING!
During the first week of school, you will take a **“have you read it closely?” quiz**. This assessment will measure your understanding of the plot and major thematic issues. Your short stories will also be used throughout the first semester for continued literary analysis. Your summer reading selection will lay the foundation for success on the AP Literature exam.

The reading selections for this year are three important short stories by important 20th century authors. You may access these stories for free through your English Literature teachers' websites – Ms. Lawrence, Ms. Sarlls, or Mr. Smith. They will be available on the RRHS Library website as well.

1. “Rectatif” by Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison

PDF link: <https://bit.ly/2LQLUxm>



Round Rock students are readers!

2. “A Good Man is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor

PDF link: <https://at.virginia.edu/1Ef9VmC>



3. “The Chrysanthemums” by Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck

PDF link: <https://bit.ly/2RcQYTJ>



Annotate the stories using high level notations, not just summary, by either writing in your text or using post-it notes throughout the stories. Make note of interesting ideas or passages, as well as questions you may have. Consider how rhetorical and literary devices help create meaning in the stories. Annotating texts while reading helps connect our minds with the written word. Have a conversation with the text!

The assessment(s) you take in class will focus on the **thematic ideas** and your ability to provide specific text evidence to support your connections. Consider the following guiding questions as you read:

1. What are the major thematic subjects (childhood vs. adulthood, family, justice, good vs. evil, etc.) present in each short story? Pay attention to how these thematic subjects develop over the course of each story.
2. How do the authors use literary devices or techniques to achieve meaning and tone? (Pay particular attention to characterization, setting, point of view, symbol, and plot).
3. What truths about humankind emerge from the works? Are people, for example, generally good; deeply flawed; etc.?

Read Dragons, Read!