

## Advanced Placement Language and Composition 2022-2023

### Summer Reading and Accompanying Assignments

**All assignments are due the first day of class  
in digital format ready for Canvas submission.**

#### **Reader Response Journal Entry, a definition:**

A student journal is an intellectual response that may be anchored in a personal observation, concern, or experience, or in a **response to an assigned reading**. The journal is an exercise in which the writer makes intellectual and imaginative leaps, sees connections among disparate or similar aspects of his or her learning, and has the relative freedom to take intellectual and creative risks not generally permitted by more formal text analysis. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MODEL FOR GUIDANCE.

Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, Text-to-World connections help to develop critical thinking as you read. When you have such a purpose for reading, you comprehend text more deeply and make meaning of the ideas in the text. You can use this strategy with any type of text: non-fiction or literary, and with other media, such as film. Make connections throughout the reading process to engage with a text, to understand the text more deeply, and to demonstrate complex understanding of the text. Feel free to experiment with figurative language as you articulate your connections.

The language and focus of the writing should both reflect the developing individual writer's voice and vocabulary, as well as the writer's awareness of the identity of the intended audience. **In other words, write naturally while following the rules of written composition including proper grammar, usage, mechanics and spelling.**

#### **The Assignments:**

**Novel (1):** *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston

We will begin our year with one of the most famous novels to come out of the 1920's Harlem

Renaissance. We will focus on Hurston's language, especially her use of dialect and figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, and imagery). Many students think this is one of the best books they read all year. Be patient—it may take some time to adjust to the rhythm of the dialect. After spending time carefully reading the novel over the summer, you should review it before school begins.

- Assignment: As you read the novel, keep a **journal**. Date **3 entries** of one page in length, typed and double-spaced; BEGIN EACH ON A SEPARATE PAGE. Each should have your name, the title, and the chapter(s) to which the journal relates.

### **Novel (2):** *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald

The next novel is a character study of Jay Gatsby and the New York society of the 1920's in which he moves. The book is widely regarded as one of the great American novels. Our focus will be Fitzgerald's lyrical passages, as well as themes such as the American Dream and the social context of American attitudes in the post-World War I era. You will want to review this novel (perhaps by rereading passages you've identified as especially significant) as we are finishing work on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

- Assignment: As you read the novel, keep a **journal**. Date **3 entries** one page in length, typed and double-spaced; BEGIN EACH ON A SEPARATE PAGE. Each should have your name, the title, and the chapter(s) to which the journal relates.

Write about connections to issues that occur to you as you read; be sure to complete responses about the BEGINNING, MIDDLE, and END of each novel. You may make personal observations, but you are, among other things, offering proof of a careful, reflective reading of the text. Do **NOT** write a summary of the plot or an analysis of the literary elements. Use proper grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling. You will be tested on the novel, and the journal entries will earn you points.

We hope you find these assignments to be challenging, but also interesting.

Have a great summer!

### Depth Scale

Level/ (Points)	Qualities
4 (10 points)	Impressive one-page response that demonstrates specifically developed critical thinking and insight and applies text to another complex outside source. Observes rules of written composition.
3 (9 points)	Completed one-page response that demonstrates understanding of context <b>and</b> specifically developed critical thinking. Observes rules of written composition.
2 (8 points)	Completed one-page response that understands context <b>and</b> attempts to show critical thinking and/or insight, but it is not developed with specific support. Composition mistakes may occur but do not interfere with meaning.
1 (7 points)	Completed one-page response may lack critical thinking and complete understanding of context. Largely <b>summary</b> . Composition mistakes may occur but do not interfere with meaning.
0 (0-6 points)	Missing/incomplete one-page responses and/or composition mistakes interfere with meaning.

**William R. Boone High School**  
**AP Language and Composition**  
**Summer Reading Journal Student Sample**

### 1

Everyone knows the saying, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” Unfortunately most people do. The title of a novel is just as important as the cover art. They both offer a first impression to the reader. Therefore, when a reader sees the title, *The Great Gatsby*, they are already questioning who Gatsby is and speculating what makes him so great. This leaves a mystery around the character before a reader looks at the first page.

In the modern day world, people continue to be thrilled by the idea of a mystery, especially a mysterious character. He holds similarities to characters like Superman, Batman, and even Spiderman. Though this connection may seem odd because Gatsby didn’t live his life fighting villains like Lex Luthor, The Joker, or The Green Goblin. He still has some interesting parallels, such as, all three super heroes use a nom de plume or pen name; Gatsby did this also. He was born

James Gatz but later changed his name to Jay Gatsby. This name gave him a chance for a fresh start and an opportunity to be a more successful person. Superheroes, aside from wanting to hide their identities, were also given empowering names to drive them to bigger and better things. Both Gatsby and superheroes do not reveal their mysterious life story in its entirety til the end. Another point to be considered is Gatsby's hopeful and sanguine personality. This personality allowed Gatsby to be seen as "great" by Nick simply because he did what Nick could not. Again a parallel can be drawn between Gatsby and superheroes; they both embody traits that their admirers do not.

Today people still offer nicknames based on traits. A prime example of this would be The Seven Dwarfs of Snow White because their names are based on their personality Gatsby also typified his title, *The Great Gatsby*.