

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION  
GRADE 11  
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2021

**SUMMER READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, a college level elective exploring the uses and the power of language. AP will challenge you to develop habits of analytical reading, critical thinking and persuasive writing. The focus of this course is dual: it explores the road of American literature and it requires that you learn writing skills at an advanced level that will prepare you for the AP English Language and Composition exam next May. Your summer assignments will introduce you to fundamental reading and writing processes that we will continue to pursue throughout the year. The following assignments are due when you return to school in September. Be prepared for your first AP assessment, which will take place the first week of school. Begin your Junior year with rousing success by demonstrating your knowledge of critical reading and academic writing. All work must be typed in MLA format. Font should be Times New Roman, size 12. If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment or the course please contact me at [kditanna@philasd.org](mailto:kditanna@philasd.org). We look forward to seeing you in September. Have a safe, enjoyable summer and remember, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Ms. Kathleen DiTanna  
English Department Chair

1. J.D. Salinger's —*The Catcher in the Rye*---Read and enjoy this classic "bildungsroman" novel. Answer the enclosed questions; use this as an opportunity to "show me" your writing talents. Pay attention to Salinger's style/Holden voice, as you will emulate his style during the first week of school. You will be assessed on the reading during the first week of school.
2. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* "OPTIONAL READ"

Read and enjoy the entire novel (you have my permission to skip the introduction, “The Custom House.” Start at Chapter 1 – “The Prison Door”), and answer the enclosed questions. This is an optional read, you may read it and answer the questions for extra credit. Remember no Wikipedia. Plagiarism will result in a zero.

Since you enrolled in this course, you love language and ideas. In addition to the American classics listed above, we know that you will also read books of your own choosing for pleasure this summer.

It is highly recommended that all prospective AP students visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and AP Central to review information presented for the AP English Language and Composition course (especially previous free response questions).

## THE LANGUAGE OF AP

Familiarize yourself with the following terms. Define each term and provide an example for each term. This work should also be typed. You are essentially creating your own AP glossary of terms; knowing these terms is an important foundation in the lexicon of AP.

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|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. argumentation    | 10. hyperbole  | 19. appeals    |
| 2. rhetoric         | 11. synecdoche | 20. ethos      |
| 3. simile           | 12. euphemism  | 21. logos      |
| 4. metaphor         | 13. analogy    | 22. pathos     |
| 5. alliteration     | 14. irony      | 23. audience   |
| 6. parallelism      | 15. anaphora   | 24. exemplum   |
| 7. cacophony        | 16. anecdote   | 25. hypothesis |
| 8. oxymoron         | 17. antithesis | 26. hyperbole  |
| 9. litotes          | 18. apostrophe | 27. irony      |
| 28. logical fallacy | 35. pragmatism |                |
| 29. logical proof   | 36. rebuttal   |                |
| 30. metonymy        | 37. semantics  |                |

- 31. non sequitur
- 32. onomatopoeia
- 33. personification
- 34. parallel structure

- 38. skepticism
  - 39. tone
  - 40. Rhetorical question
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## READING GUIDE

## *THE CATCHER IN THE RYE*

Answer all questions in well-written responses. Your work must be ORIGINAL; it must be typed; it must be proofread.

1. What are your initial reactions to the book? What do you like, dislike, identify with and question? If you've read it previously to what extent has your opinion of the book been affected by your life experiences since your first reading?
2. What's up with Holden? How would you describe him? What character traits does he possess? If you are the analyst/counselor to whom he relates his story, how would you help him?
3. Explain what Holden means by "phoniness." How do you define "phoniness?"
4. What are the "roadblocks" or obstacles that Holden has faced that could be contributing factors to his emotional state?
5. Explain the significance of the following people: Phoebe, Jane Gallagher, Holden's parents, Allie, Mr. Antolini, James Castle, and other significant characters.
6. If traditional plot lines center around the resolution of a conflict, does *Catcher* have one? Does Holden change/grow at all during the course of the novel.
7. What commentary does *Catcher* make on American cultural and/or societal values?
8. Does *Catcher* deserve the positive/negative criticism that it has earned? Should it deserve to be one of the most widely taught "classics" in high schools over the world, or does it deserve its spot at the top of the list of the most banned books?
9. Do you agree, after hearing Holden's story that he should be in a "rest home?" Cite evidence to support your viewpoint.
10. Is the Holden merely the central character or is he the "hero?" Define your terms (what is a hero?) and explain your choice.

READING GUIDE  
*CREDIT*

*THE SCARLET LETTER OPTIONAL/EXTRA*

Answer all questions in well-written, fully developed responses. Your work must be ORIGINAL; it must be typed; it must be proofread.

1. What is your reaction to the book? What did you find interesting, provocative, and realistic or not? What do you think were the most important scenes, ideas and/or quotations?
2. Hawthorne wrote this as a “moral allegory”. Characters represent different aspects of human nature. Which characters represent truths and which characters represent other ideas? Explain with evidence from the text.
3. What parallels could be made between the events and the characters in the book and those of our society?
4. What is Hawthorne’s message about sin, forgiveness, redemption and revenge?
5. Discuss the changes that the characters undergo.
6. Analyze the description of Chillingworth at the beginning of Chapter fifteen. How does Hawthorne’s language and style reveal his intentions’ here?
7. Discuss Hawthorne’s use of symbolism in the book: the rose bush, the scarlet letter, the scaffold, the forest and the characters.
8. Discuss the significance of Pearl, her behaviors and her fate.
9. Where do you find “sin” in this book?
10. Where do you find “strength” in this book?
11. What is the view of women in this book?
12. This book is considered an American literary classic. Explain what is “American” about it? What is “Classic” about it?