



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2025

Course: AP Literature & Composition

Contact: Ms. Day (mday@bishopchatard.org)

For your summer reading assignment, choose one of the books listed below to read and analyze. Complete the following literary analysis assignment for your chosen text:

Before the start of the school year, students should analyze a character's development throughout the novel by completing the following:

- Double-entry journal: Write down 10 quotations from the novel that demonstrate your chosen character's development throughout the novel. After each quote, provide three or more sentences that analyze the character at that moment. In other words, what does the reader learn about the character from this quote? How is the character developing/changing throughout the course of the plot?
- Below your double-entry journal, write 4-6 sentences summarizing your analysis of the character's development, and what message you believe that the author is attempting to portray through the character's development.

The assignment is due the first day of school and should be completed electronically. You should also be prepared for a timed writing on your summer reading text during the first week of school.

AP Literature & Composition Book Options

***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck** - Published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. At once a naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's powerful landmark novel is perhaps the most American of American Classics.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte** - Published in 1849, Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by

Catherine's father. The action of the story is chaotic and unremittingly violent, but the accomplished handling of a complex structure, the evocative descriptions of the lonely moorland setting and the poetic grandeur of vision combine to make this unique novel a masterpiece of English literature.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley - Few creatures of horror have seized readers' imaginations and held them for so long as the anguished monster of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (published in 1818). The story of Victor Frankenstein's terrible creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense. With Frankenstein, she succeeded admirably in the task she set for herself: to create a story that, in her own words, "would speak to the mysterious fears of our nature and awaken thrilling horror -- one to make the reader dread to look round, to curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart."

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens - For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Fences by August Wilson - Troy Maxson is a strong man, a hard man. He has had to be to survive. Troy Maxson has gone through life in an America where to be proud and black is to face pressures that could crush a man, body and soul. But the 1950s are yielding to the new spirit of liberation in the 1960s, a spirit that is changing the world Troy Maxson has learned to deal with the only way he can, a spirit that is making him a stranger, angry and afraid, in a world he never knew and to a wife and son he understands less and less. Published in 1985, this is a modern classic, a book that deals with the impossibly difficult themes of race in America, set during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s.