

# AP ENGLISH 2009-10

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## Friendly Contacts for Movie Watching:

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**SUMMER ESSAY DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>**

# AP English Literature and Composition – Summer Assignments

Okay, first things first: If you do not procrastinate, the summer work will not be difficult to complete. If you do procrastinate, you insure that stress and anxiety will overwhelm the middle part of August. So do not procrastinate. Start your reading as soon as possible, pace yourself, and leave time to reflect on your reading.

Next, the formal summer work, outlined below, consists of reading one text and one play, writing one literary analysis essay, reading sections of the *Bible*, and reading sections of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. But in preparation for your **college-level** English experience next year, I *strongly* urge you to maintain an informal but consistent academic focus during the summer. Read a newspaper every day, learn and use a several “tone” words, read news articles on the internet, teach yourself new vocabulary from/for the SAT test. Read editorials and personal essays, learn and use more “tone” words, browse through your *MLA Handbook*, read magazines, learn and use the rest of the “tone” words.

I will hold you accountable for the formal work, but *you* will benefit from the informal agenda. Most importantly, the college you hope to attend expects you to be *literate* in all senses of the word (and if you are unsure about the several meanings of that word, LOOK IT UP!)

Finally, a note about the *Bible* readings: The *Bible* is considered one of the most influential cultural texts in Western civilization, and the writings of the *Bible* form at least part of the backdrop for all history, art, and literature up to and well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For the purposes of AP English, we read the narratives in the *Bible* as ancient stories that have been shared through generations of both Eastern and Western cultures and that have been alluded to in canonical texts.

## *The Odyssey*

1. Read *The Odyssey* by Homer. I recommend the translation by Robert Fagles (1996), but **unabridged** editions of Robert Fitzgerald or Richard Lattimore translations are also fine.
2. After you finish reading the text, get together with several AP English friends and view the 2-hour/45 minute film version of *The Odyssey* (Armand Assante/Isabella Rosselini). It is available at the public library, through NetFlicks, and at local video rental stores.
3. Write an essay that asserts a thematic idea from the text. Cite copiously from *The Odyssey* to support your claim and analysis. Please use your student ID number and standard MLA formatting for your essay.

## *Oedipus Rex*

4. Read *Oedipus Rex*, sometimes also referred to as *Oedipus the King*, by Sophocles. As with *The Odyssey*, I recommend the translation by Robert Fagles, but **unabridged** editions by Bernard Knox, Richard Lattimore, Robert Fitzgerald, and others are also fine.

## *The Bible*

5. Read *at least* these narratives from the *Bible*: *Old Testament*: Genesis; Exodus; Psalms 8, 23; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Isaiah 11:1-11; Song of Solomon; *New Testament*: Matthew (skim through to understand the life of Jesus and read the Sermon on the Mount); Luke 15:10-32. I recommend reading the King James version of the *Bible*.

## *MLA Handbook*

6. If you do not already own a copy, purchase and review the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009). In particular, read the chapters on Plagiarism; Documentation: Preparing the List of Works Cited; and Documentation: Citing Sources in the Text. Be prepared to identify the required citation components for books (by single and multiple authors, by more than one author, and with editors), journal/magazine articles.

## Accountability

1. Submit your typed essay no later than midnight, Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. You may deliver it to my house, send it via postal service or email, or drop it off at Soquel High School. IMPORTANT: If you email it to me, please attach it as a Word document only AND copy and paste directly into the body of the email.
2. Expect a test during the first week of school that asks you to demonstrate your general knowledge of #1 and #4-6 above.
3. Expect to write a brief in-class essay on *Oedipus Rex* (without use of the text) during the first week of school.