

**Matanzas High School Summer Reading 2018**  
**Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition**

**Directions:** Choose **two books** from the list below. Read – and hopefully, relish them. If you aren't enjoying a book, choose another. And, here are some words of wisdom....sometimes, students don't do their summer reading :) and they are often disturbed at how much it impacts their grade during the first nine weeks - particularly as they get ready to send off transcripts to colleges/universities. Remember, this is a college level literature class. We can't do literature without reading! So, read!

If you have questions about the reading/assignment, email [minnk@flaglerschools.com](mailto:minnk@flaglerschools.com)

During the first week of school in August, you will upload your responses to **both books** onto turnitin.com (**two separate documents**.) What you are addressing is a prompt from the AP Literature exam from May 2018. Here's what I want you to write about in 400 words or more (**400 words for each response**):

- Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often also a burden or a handicap. Select a character from the book you choose who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem. Then write a well-developed essay which explains what the gift is, why it may be both a burden and a gift, and what the author wants readers to understand about the gift (theme).
- Make sure you include the title of the work and the author. Avoid using the pronouns "you" or "I/we" (first or second person). Remember you are writing two essays about the same topic - one for EACH of the books you read.

Below are the novels you can choose your two from. Do some research on each before you choose!

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Alias Grace</i>                 | 11. <i>King Lear</i>                  |
| 2. <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> | 12. <i>Madame Bovary</i>              |
| 3. <i>Beloved</i>                     | 13. <i>Mama Day</i>                   |
| 4. <i>Crime and Punishment</i>        | 14. <i>Midnight's Children</i>        |
| 5. <i>Frankenstein</i>                | 15. <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> |
| 6. <i>The Goldfinch</i>               | 16. <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>     |
| 7. <i>Great Expectations</i>          | 17. <i>The Power of One</i>           |
| 8. <i>Heart of Darkness</i>           | 18. <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>        |
| 9. <i>Homegoing</i>                   | 19. <i>The Return of the Native</i>   |
| 10. <i>Kindred</i>                    | 20. <i>The Tempest</i>                |

Students, feel free to do some background research online; use whatever materials you like to enhance your understanding, but READ the books yourself. Watching the movie version can be a great experience AFTER reading the book, but sometimes, there are significant differences, so be careful! Using book notes, like *Shmoop*, in place of reading is cheating – cheating both yourself and your education. Although reading may not be the first item on your list of fun summer activities, as with anything – dance, soccer, cheerleading, football, etc. – we only improve when we train ourselves in that area. So, the more you read, the easier it gets, the more you enjoy it and the better insight you have into literature and writing. That can only help your SAT/ACT scores and college career! :)