

**Advanced Placement English 489 (Owen, Room E238)
Summer 2009 Reading and Writing Assignments**

This summer you are required to read the following works. If you have read them before, they should still be read a second time over the summer:

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

Dubliners by James Joyce

A Passage to India by E.M. Forster

**Advice to AP Students from Previous AP Classes--READ THIS ADVICE
IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!**

Library issued versions of the summer titles are fine, but you may prefer to buy a new or used copy because you will need these pieces throughout the first nine weeks of school (and during the school year for certain assignments).

In addition to reading these works, you must complete writing assignments to go with them. These assignments should be worked AS YOU READ; you will encounter difficulty handling the tasks if you wait until the entire play, novel, or set of short fiction is finished.

When school starts, you will be tested on these pieces; the summer writing assignments will be graded; and you will be required to write an in-class essay on at least one of these works. If you do not do the summer work, therefore, your first nine weeks average will be quite low.

The Writing Assignments

Note: These should be completed without using Sparknotes, etc.!!! If you copy ideas without giving credit, I will give you a zero.

A Doll's House

Complete the attached worksheet labeled **Analysis of a Modern Play**. The "basic assumption, conviction, or doubt" is a comment the play itself seems to present about the sheet's key concepts; the "reflection of contemporary culture" is where you connect the ideas presented in the drama to modern life/society today (in 2009). If you want to make a chart of your own with a bigger area for writing because of the limited space on the attached worksheet, that is acceptable. Be thorough but concise. Two pieces of evidence and their analysis in the other columns should be sufficient treatment of each concept. **Important: The evidence should be quotations (the use of ellipses is fine if you leave enough context for me to recognize the passage from the play).**

Dubliners

On your own paper (or computer), analyze each story in Dubliners for the following elements using the labels and order I do here. Also, **please go in the exact order of stories that Joyce uses**. You will lose points if you do not follow these directives. BE BRIEF--it is acceptable to use a word or two if that will give the information requested. Letters (e) and (f) will each require a sentence, though.

- a. point of view
- b. protagonist
- c. antagonist
- d. central conflict
- e. epiphany experience
- f. theme

A Passage to India

Most novels achieve structural unity through at least one of five approaches. Forster's genius is that he manages to structure A Passage to India using all five approaches in some way. Use your own paper (or computer) to compose answers to the following questions. Please use the labels and order I do here. (CONTINUED)

Approach One--Structural Divisions--Comment on the significance of the three parts of the novel. Be sure to tie your ideas into what you believe to be the predominant theme of the work.

Approach Two--Polarization of Characters--Look at the **main** characters of the novel and try to see how they are polarized or divided. Group them by your idea of their polarization and comment on the significance of the division to an overall theme of the novel.

Approach Three--Repetition of Patterns or Elements--Identify at least three (but no more than five) repeated patterns or elements that you notice in the novel. List them and write a sentence or two about the significance of each.

Approach Four--Resolution of Conflict--Explain what you think the resolution of the novel means to convey about the overarching theme of this novel. (Dig deep! Do not stick just to the obvious.)

Approach Five--Point of View--What is the point of view of this novel, and why do you think Forster chose that approach? (How and why is the point of view significant to the main theme of the novel?)

Note: A brief paragraph or two per approach should suffice. Being concise is a skill some of you may have to learn when completing this assignment. Once again, this is not intended to be a formal essay; it should nonetheless be organized and focused. NO MORE THAN 2 TYPED, double spaced pages/2-3 handwritten pages (one side of the paper only). Be sure to use **textual evidence** in your answers.

Have an enjoyable summer, but do put time and effort into these assignments. If you do, your life will be much more pleasant this fall, and your grades will be higher. I look forward to the coming year with you. See me before the summer or e-mail me if you have any questions regarding this work.

Sincerely,

Melissa Owen, AP English Teacher
<mowen@scsk12.org>

P.S. You will be asked to purchase, borrow, or check out 5-7 other books/plays over the course of the year. Each nine weeks syllabus will announce required works, and I will notify local bookstores about the reading list for the course. I also plan to order sets of books from Dover Publishing for all interested students; these full length novels and plays run \$1.00-\$3.50, which is very reasonable and which would be an economic way to own these works so that you can mark them up with brilliant ideas and commentary of your own.

Close Reading/How to Read the Summer Work Well

Reading closely is essential in AP English. In order to analyze a work of literature, you must read that literature closely (i.e. THINK WHILE YOU READ):

1. Look for reasons behind a character's statements, actions, or thoughts.
2. Watch for striking or unusual use of language--the way an author expresses an idea or casts a description.
3. Words, phrases, or sentences can sometimes be understood in more than one way and as a result often have special significance.
4. Look for the relationships between a work's parts.
5. Watch for patterns in words, descriptions, actions, images, etc.--an author repeats for a reason!

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6. Watch for changes in setting, character, mood, etc. They usually have purposes beyond the obvious.
7. Watch for statements which do not make sense when taken literally.
8. Assume that an author has special reasons for most things he/she chooses to do when writing. ASK YOURSELF: WHY??????????

Tips for close reading well:

- mark passages which do any of the above (if the book is not yours, at least write down page numbers and a key word or two)
- read the work twice (or more!!!! Yes, I hear you laughing or crying; but I am serious.)
- keep a reading journal and record your thoughts, ideas, and questions as they occur to you