



## AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment

### Part I. Reading

**Required-Choose 2 Novels from the list below:**

*All the Light we Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr

*Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison

*A Man Called Ove*, by Frederic Backman

*White Noise*, Don DeLillo

*The History of Love*, by Nicole Krauss

*All the Pretty Horses*, by Cormac McCarthy

*The Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane

### Synthesis: Creative Project and Essay

#### RATIONALE:

**Synthesis** is one of the key concepts of the AP Literature curriculum. Not only will you be asked to synthesize a variety of texts on the AP examination, but you will also be asked to **synthesize** your own understandings, observations, and analysis throughout the semester to create your own thoughtful and original critical essays.

**So what is synthesis?** Synthesis is simply the process of making something new by combining two or more different elements; it is a complex whole formed by combining elements, even if those elements might be contradictory. You have synthesized in English class before: any time you tracked and assessed motifs in relation to themes or compared and contrasted various texts or characters within a text, you have engaged in the process of synthesis.

#### OUTCOMES:

1. You will be able to
  - demonstrate facility in the synthesis and analysis of challenging literature through both visual and written communication.

#### PROCESS:

You are going to make literary art and provide a typed, detailed rationale. **After reading TWO texts from the AP Literature Summer Reading list, you will develop a thesis that explores the SYNTHESIS of a common thematic idea between the two texts**, for ex: “What do both *The Bacchae* and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* say about monstrous forms of motherhood?”

Look for universal themes in common and where they are present in the 2 novels you read.

1) You will use your original thesis argument as a stepping-stone to create HIGH-QUALITY artwork that is personally meaningful, intellectually stimulating, and visually attractive (you do NOT have to be an artist to be creative :). This artwork should uniquely and vividly capture your argument.

2) **Accompanying your artwork will be an essay that defends your original thesis. This is the written equivalent of your visual/creative synthesis.(no more than three pages MLA format)**

**METHODS: You have relative creative freedom on this project. You can choose from the options below to demonstrate your understanding:**

***Become a composer.*** Compose a song cycle based on the themes you isolate (music must be performed or presented to the class).

***Become a mixed-media artist.*** Create a collage that synthesizes your thematic claim.

***Become a poet.*** Construct a bound book of poems based on your arguments. Six poems minimum.

***Become a 3-D artist.*** Fabricate a sculpture that conveys your claim.

***Become a fine artist.*** Create a painting or drawing that represents the abstract and concrete representations of something symbolic in your novels. These should be mounted, framed, or otherwise well-presented.

## **PART II: POETRY**

**Task: Explore poetry!**

**Assignment:**

**-5 entries min. 1/2 page-in a reflective journal**

**-One experience paper-2pgs.**

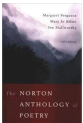
### **Introduction to Poetry**

Poetry—the very word inspires fear and trembling, and well it should because it deals with the intensity of human emotion and the experiences of life itself. But there is no reason to fear that which elevates, elucidates, edifies, and inspires. Poetry is a gift of language, like speech and song, and with familiarity comes pleasure and knowledge and comfort.

Throughout the summer you should read as much poetry as possible. As soon as possible, pick up an anthology of poetry and read, read, read. Open to any page and read for pleasure and interest.

- from the public library, B&N, Amazon etc. Norton Anthology PDF

<http://the-eye.eu/public/Books/Poetry/The%20Norton%20Anthology%20of%20Poetry.pdf>



Poetry Foundation <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/resources>

## PROCESS:

Your task is to keep a poetry journal in response to your exploration of poetry . Don't try to "study" the poems; just respond to them on an emotional level. Your response may be a quick-write response. You must have a total of 5 entries -try to explain what from the poem prompted your response. each entry should be a minimum 1/2 page.

In a **final 2 pg. experience paper** please respond to the following:

- Identify subjects that move you or engage you.
- Are there certain themes you respond to? Are there certain poets you like? (List them in your journal and read more poetry by them!)
- Are there certain types or styles of poems you enjoy? What do they seem to have in common?
- Are there images or lines you love?

*Make this a time to develop a personal taste for poetry. Use this random approach to experience a broad range of form and content. You should find that you are more comfortable with poetry simply because you have been discovering it at your own pace.*

### **Summary:**

#### **Reading**

*You will be reading 2 novels from the provided list. Using these two, you will complete the synthesis creative project and accompanying synthesis essay (3 pgs MAX).*

#### **Poetry**

*You will be reading a wide variety of poetry from any source you choose. Throughout your sampling of poetry you must write a total of 5 short free write "emotional responses" to the poems you enjoyed. Min. 1/2 page each. You are not expected to analyze the poems, just write your "reaction" to the poem.*

*You will also write a 2 pg. reflection paper about your experience exploring poetry using the 4 bulleted points provided.*