

**2019 AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

I hope you are ready for an exciting year in AP Lit! To prepare, I encourage you to **read as much as possible this summer**. Specifically, read Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Please note that there is violent and sexual content in both novels. Although these texts differ drastically in terms of time and place, the stylistic and thematic threads will set the tone for our readings throughout the year.

I highly recommend that you take notes as you read. Use "sticky" notes/color coding to easily locate significant features of each text (pay close attention to point of view and characterization). I will not collect your notes, but we will discuss the novels during the first few weeks of school and you will write detailed graded essays that require thorough knowledge of each text.

In addition to reading, write a first draft of your college essay. If you know where you are applying, and if the schools you are applying to have their own essay prompts, select one of these prompts to respond to (include a copy of the prompt with your response). If you don't know where you are applying yet, or if the schools you are applying to do not have specific prompts, respond to one of the 2019-20 Common Application essay prompts, found online or listed on back of this paper. Bring a **printed** copy of the first draft of your essay **ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**. The emphasis here is on "draft," as this probably will be (and should be) the first of many attempts. As such, **DON'T FEEL LIMITED** by word count or by trying to sound perfect (that will come later). That said, the more time you spend thinking about your essay, the easier your life will be in September/October as you go through your application process. Explore different topics, different ideas, and different ways to write about these topics and ideas. Remember, focus on your **STRENGTHS**, and the more personal **DETAILS** you can provide to **SHOW** these strengths, the better. I will read as many drafts on as many questions as you need, so submit as many ideas as you'd like.

If you have any questions about the assignments or about the course in general, stop by Room 325, or email ccotta@mpsd.org.

Have a terrific summer. I look forward to sharing our love of literature together this Fall!

Ms. Cotta

COMMON APPLICATION PROMPTS 2018-2019

<http://www.commonapp.org>

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.