English Summer Reading

Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

This information sheet is for all students who have registered for: English 1-2 Honors, English 3-4 Honors, English 5-6 AP or English 7-8 AP

You have enrolled in one of the English Advanced Placement track classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Advanced Placement and Honors classes are designed not only for gifted students, but also for students who are committed to the challenge of rigorous coursework. This is an exciting commitment, one for which all concerned must be aware of the opportunities and rewards.

Advanced Placement (AP) class curricula is developed in part by College Board committees consisting of high school teachers and university professors. The program was originally conceived because those two groups realized that some high school students were so well prepared in some high school subjects that they did not need to repeat those courses in college. Exams, developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the College Board, are offered at the end of the English 5-6 AP and the English 7-8 AP courses so that students can show what they have learned and possibly qualify for college credit.

At Pinnacle High School, our Honors and AP English courses are designed to prepare students to take the English Advanced Placement exams at the end of their junior and/or senior years. At Pinnacle High School, we expect our AP students to take the exams offered during the junior and senior years, and our AP classes are taught with this culminating activity in mind. Much time is devoted not only to mastering the English curriculum and academic standards of the state and the district, but also to teaching and practicing both literary analysis and test-taking strategies and skills. The exams are given in May; the current cost is $94 per test. AP exams are scored on a 1-5 scale. Many colleges and universities accept a “4” or a “5” score for 3-6 college credits. Even at a less expensive school such as a state college or university, that can translate into an excellent investment. Some schools offer placement and/or waivers for certain AP exam scores. Each college/university determines its own acceptance policies, so students should contact the colleges they want to attend to see what score will earn credit.

As part of the curriculum for Honors and AP English courses, students are required to complete a summer reading assignment. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you purchase your own copies of the books for personal note taking as you read. The works on the reading list can be obtained at any bookstore (Barnes & Noble at Desert Ridge will stock all titles) or a library (if you do not want to purchase) and are to be read in their entirety during the summer. Movies, Cliff’s Notes, Spark Notes, and other “study aides” should be used only as such and not as replacements for the complete works. The required reading list for each class level is on the back of this letter. You will be tested on the reading during the first week of school. The test grade will be reflected as a significant part of your 1st quarter grade. It is STRONGLY SUGGESTED that if you read the books early in the summer, you write a reading log to refresh your memory for the test in August. Such a log will not be collected for credit, but you may use it in class when the novel is studied and discussed; it is simply a study suggestion for your use and not a requirement.
2019 Summer Reading Novel Assignments

**English 1-2 Honors**

*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

Read the book, complete the annotation assignment, and be prepared for a test the first week of school.

**English 3-4 Honors**

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

Read the books and complete a novel analysis for **ONE** of the works.

**English 5-6 AP**

See attached, and be prepared for a timed writing the first week back.

**English 7-8 AP**

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

Read both and be prepared for a test the first week of school.