

**AP ENGLISH LIT - Ms. Roth**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2021**

If you are planning to take AP English Literature & Composition in the fall, you will read two novels this summer: *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving and one additional title from the AP English Literature summer reading list. (Please note: AP Lit and 12th grade English have different lists. Make sure you are choosing from the AP Lit list. It is included at the end of this document.)

You are expected to read and reflect on these novels independently. **Do not** use secondary sources to provide you with analysis or interpretation (e.g. Sparknotes, CliffsNotes, etc.). All work you submit in this course must be your own original work.

You will complete an assignment called a **“Major Work Review”** for each of the two books; you will be completing several “Major Work Reviews” during the school year, so these will be good practice for what lies ahead. The template for this assignment is included below. After making a copy of this document, complete your own Major Work Review for each novel you read for this class. You will also find a sample Major Work Review on George Orwell’s *1984* below; consult this sample as an example of the depth and quality of the expectations for this assignment.

You will also be assessed on the novels when we start class; you will write an in-class essay on one of the novels and a processed, take-home essay on another novel. Completing the “Major Work Reviews” during the summer will be helpful preparation for these essays.

You should enroll in our **Google Classroom with Code slj33pb**. You can access this assignment there as well. Submit the assignment to **BOTH** Google Classroom AND turnitin.com **BEFORE September 1**. Here is the turnitin.com registration info for our course:

Class ID number: **29265123**

Password (case sensitive): **Roth**

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**Due on turnitin.com BEFORE Wednesday, September 1.**  
**Late work will be marked down 10% per day.**

If you have questions, you may email me at [kroth@hinghamschools.org](mailto:kroth@hinghamschools.org), but please be aware that I do not check work email regularly during the summer. It may take several days or more to get a response. You are encouraged to ask any questions about this assignment before school gets out in June.

Happy Reading!! Happy Summer!!  
*Remember: Read as a writer. Write as a reader.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Work Review**

**ALL CONTENT** must be **YOUR ORIGINAL WORK**. Submit this assignment to turnitin.com AND Google Classroom.

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|--|--|
| <b><u>Title, Author, Year of Publication</u></b>   |  |
| <b><u>Narrative Point of View</u></b><br>(1st, 2nd, 3rd limited, 3rd omniscient)   |  |
| <b><u>Narrative Structure</u></b><br>(Chronological, Non-Chronological, Frame Narrative)                                 |  |
| <b><u>Setting</u></b> (place, time--list multiple settings if applicable)  |  |
| <b><u>Major Character #1</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)   |  |
| <b><u>Major Character #2</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)   |  |
| <b><u>Major Character #3</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)   |  |
| <b><u>Major Character #4</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)   |  |
| <b><u>Minor Characters (list 3)</u></b>  |  |
| <b><u>Plot</u></b> (7-10 bullet point summary)   |  |
| <b><u>Symbols</u></b> (2 or 3)<br>(include 4-5 sentence description & analysis of how each symbol functions in the work) |  |

### **Topics & Themes**

In the **“Topic” column** identify 3 important recurring topics (“big concepts”) that appear throughout the work (e.g. childhood, disillusionment, power, free will). This column should be single words or phrases. In the **“Key Events” column**, list/bullet 4-6 specific, key events that have something to do with that topic/“big concept”. In the **“Thematic Statement” column** compose a complete theme that the novel conveys about the topic or concept. Remember that thematic statements must be independent clauses, capable of standing on their own (e.g. Power acquired through corrupt means will inevitably infect the entire community.).

| Topic | Key Events | Thematic Statement |
|-------|------------|--------------------|
| 1.    |            |                    |
| 2.    |            |                    |
| 3.    |            |                    |

Name: SampleDate: Timeless**Major Work - Overview**ALL CONTENT on this chart must be **YOUR ORIGINAL WORK**. You will submit this document to turnitin.com.

You will also print this out and bring a complete paper copy to class.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Title, Author, Year of Publication, genre</u></b>                 | 1984, George Orwell, 1949, dystopian novel  |
| <b><u>Narrative Point of View</u></b>                                   | Third-person limited  |
| <b><u>Narrative Structure</u></b>                                       | Chronological with occasional flashbacks  |
| <b><u>Setting</u></b> place, time--list multiple settings if applicable | London, Airstrip One, Oceania, fictional/dystopian 1984, flashbacks to the 1950s; Winston's apartment; Ministry of Truth; Ministry of Love; Proletown; Chestnut Tree Cafe; Mr. Charrington's shop   |
| <b><u>Major Character #1</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)          | Winston Smith lives in Victory Mansions in London. An unhappy middle aged man, Winston's only joy is his work at the Ministry of Truth where he "corrects" inaccuracies in newspapers and records that reflect a potential error or weakness in the Party's infallibility. He acquires an illegal journal and pencil and begins writing his rebellious thoughts and inclinations against the Party, the ruling force in Oceania. He repeatedly attempts to remember vestiges of the past, including his mother and childhood before the Party took control. He ultimately finds brief escape from the drudgery of his existence in an affair with Julia, but ultimately he is caught by the Thought Police and tortured into betraying his ideals of individuality and humanity.                                |
| <b><u>Major Character #2</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)          | Julia is a young woman in her early 20s who seeks out Winston as a lover; they have an illegal affair and share in their rebellion as a means to slightly protest against the Party. Julia has no memories of a time before the Party; therefore, she doubts it can ever be defeated. Her rebellions provide strictly personal gratification (sex, chocolate, make up); she is not interested in political or social change. The irony of her character is that she projects extreme orthodoxy to Party ideals in her daily life, yet she manages to rebel in secret in many and varied ways. She is also caught by the Thought Police and betrays Winston.   |
| <b><u>Major Character #3</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)          | O'Brien is a member of the Inner Party, the ruling enclave of the Party. His status is higher than that of Winston in the Ministry of Truth. Winston fixates on O'Brien early in the novel, believing he has had dreams where O'Brien speaks to him. O'Brien reaches out to Winston and secretly teaches him about the Brotherhood, an underground rebel group devoted to overthrowing the Party and exposing its lies. Inspired these revelations, Winston begins to hope in a future where the Party might be overthrown. Ultimately, however, O'Brien turns out to be a member of the Thought Police who was framing Winston from the beginning. O'Brien becomes Winston's primary torturer in the Ministry of Love and leads Winston to betray Julia and any ideals of humanity that Winston once clung to. |
| <b><u>Major Character #4</u></b><br>(4-5 sentence description)          | Big Brother is the leader of the Party, the ruling order of Oceania. Big Brother is infallible and supreme; his name and image appears on ubiquitous forms of propoganda and media. Citizens of Oceania are taught to revere him as a deity. Oddly, no one has ever seen Big Brother, and in the secret text of the Brotherhood given to Winston by O'Brien, it is suggested that Big Brother may not even exist as an individual. He never appears physically to the people, but his image and reputation are to be both feared and loved.   |
| <b><u>Minor Characters</u></b><br>(list at least 3)                     | Parsons, Syme, Winston's mother, Katharine, Charrington, proles   |
| <b><u>Plot</u></b> (7-10 bullet point summary)                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winston acquires a diary &amp; starts writing in it with much risk to himself given the totalitarian rule of The Party and Big Brother</li> <li>Winston meets Julia, a younger woman, who is keen to rebel in relatively meaningless ways (sex, food, wine, make up, etc.); they have a series of illicit rendezvous in an apartment in Proletown</li> <li>O'Brien reaches out to Winston to see if he wants to be part of a secret rebellious society</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>called The Brotherhood. Winston and Julia meet with O'Brien and are taught about The Brotherhood's goals and how the Party controls its citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winston &amp; Julia are caught by the Thought Police in their apartment</li> <li>• Winston is taken to the Ministry of Love and tortured and learns that he had been set up by O'Brien all along.</li> <li>• Winston is brought to Room 101 and tortured with the threat of rats (his biggest fear) until he betrays Julia and is broken in the eyes of the Party.</li> <li>• Winston is released to lead a sad, hollow existence--one in which he knows he will be ultimately executed by the Party.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Symbols</b> (2 or 3)<br/>(include 4-5 sentence description &amp; analysis of how each symbol functions in the work)</p> | <p><u>Glass Paperweight</u>: Winston purchases the glass paperweight with a small piece of coral in its center from an antique shop owned by Mr. Charrington in Proletown. Technically illegal, it is an obsolete reminder of the past before the Party took over. It exists only as an object of beauty for Winston, a moment preserved in time. It represents beauty and tranquility, qualities that do not exist in Oceania. The paperweight is crushed by the Thought Police during Winston's arrest, portending the crushing of Winston's ideals and hope.</p> <p><u>Thrush</u>: Winston hears the thrush singing in the field (which he calls the Golden Country) where he has his initial tryst with Julia. The bird's song captures his attention: it is beautiful and bold and uncensored. Winston realizes no one in the Party sings unless for propaganda purposes. The thrush symbolizes individualized expression and creativity; Winston admires the thrush and its song.</p> |

### **Topics & Themes**

In the **"Topic" column** identify 3 important recurring topics ("big concept") that appears throughout the work (e.g. childhood, disillusionment, power, free will). This column should be single words or phrases. In the **"Key Events" column**, list/bullet 4-6 specific, key events or references that have something to do with that topic/"big concept". In the **"Thematic Statement" column** compose a complete theme that the novel conveys about the topic or concept. Remember that thematic statements must be independent clauses, capable of standing on their own (e.g. Power acquired through corrupt means will inevitably infect the entire community.).

| Topic         | Key Events  | Thematic Statement  |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1. Creativity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winston buys a journal to write down his thoughts in; this is a rebellious act under the Party</li> <li>• Winston enjoys his work at the Ministry of Truth, even though it means fabricating lies to sustain the Party's infallibility, because it is inherently creative</li> <li>• Syme discusses Newspeak, the official language of the Party; Newspeak's goal is to limit the range of thought and emotion by eliminating words (doubleplusgood, e.g.)</li> <li>• All media (novels, music, films) are created by the Party as pieces of propaganda</li> <li>• Winston admires the Prole woman who sings freely while she hangs the laundry; Party members do not express themselves this way</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oppressive forces will try to diminish people's access to creative outlets in order to rob people of their autonomy and self-respect.</li> </ul> |
| 2. Fear       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residents of Oceania are monitored through telescreens, microphones, and helicopters spying on them at all times.</li> <li>• Even loyal Party members like Parsons can be kept in fear of their own children, who are trained to be Junior Spies.</li> <li>• O'Brien uses Winston's fear of rats to manipulate him into betraying Julia</li> <li>• When Winston first thinks Julia is following him, he fear that she is a member of the Thought Police stalking him. He thinks about bashing her skull in with a brick; this fear quickly turns to attraction when he realizes Julia is romantically interested in Winston. The fear of being caught leads Winston to entertain despicable deeds.</li> <li>• The perpetual state of war that the Party maintains keeps its citizens in constant fear. Citizens of Oceania live in dread of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A life filled with fear can lead people to betray their values, their loved ones, and the nature of their communities.</li> </ul>                |

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|                 | <p>their enemies in Eastasia or Eurasia, even though they have never seen or encountered anyone from these places.</p>   |   |
| <p>3. Truth</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Winston writes in his journal that freedom consists of the ability to say that <math>2+2=4</math>.</li> <li>● The Party manipulates and control all access to knowledge and history. They write the textbooks and alter news reports via the Ministry of Truth in order to always appear infallible.</li> <li>● When Winston is being tortured by O'Brien in the Ministry of Love, O'Brien relies on exerting physical pain to make Winston admit that <math>2+2</math>=whatever the Party wants it to equal.</li> <li>● Winston desperately tries to cling to memories of his childhood to prove that life was not always thus.</li> <li>● Winston once held concrete proof that the Party lies: he had a photo of Jones, Aaronson, &amp; Rutherford (three Party heroes turned enemies) that contradicted the Party's official story about the men's rebellion. He destroyed the photo for fear of being caught.</li> <li>● The entire population of London is manipulated into believing that thoughtcriminals had hung banners celebrating the enemy Eastasia when in fact they themselves had hung the banners in preparation for Hate Week. The Party changed whom it was at war with in an instant, and the public had to agree with their lies for fear of punishment.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Truth derived from a singular, insulated source cannot be trusted; truth must come to us from shared and diverse learning and experience.</li> </ul> |



**Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading**  
**AP English Literature & Composition (12th grade)**  
**Summer 2021**

(Note: Students in 12th grade English seminars have a separate list.)

- All students entering AP English Literature & Composition are expected to read the required text.
- Students must also read one additional text from the “choice list”.
- Students must enroll in this class’ section of Turnitin.com with code **29265123** and password **Roth**
- Enroll in our Google Classroom with Code **slj33pb**.
- Complete [two Major Work Review Assignments](#) (one for *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and one for your choice book).
- These assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com BEFORE **Wednesday, September 1**.
- Students are encouraged to read additional books over the summer; they may wish to consider additional titles from the list.

**Required Text for Grade 12 AP Literature**

| Title  | Author | Synopsis   |
|--|--------|--|
| <i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i><br>(Required) | Irving | A compelling plot line traces the friendship of two boys from childhood through college, grapples with the effect of the Vietnam conflict on the characters and the town, and begs the reader to believe in a miracle. |

**Grade 12 AP Literature Choices (Select 1)**

|                             |            |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|
| <i>Ragtime</i>              | Doctorow   | <i>Ragtime</i> captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears.  |
| <i>Invisible Man</i>        | Ellison    | A classic from the moment it first appeared in 1952, <i>Invisible Man</i> chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the levels of intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he discovers how elusive and unknowable truth really is.  |
| <i>Middlesex</i>            | Eugenides  | "I was born twice: first, as a baby girl...and then again, as a teenage boy, in August of 1974. . . My birth certificate lists my name as Calliope Helen Stephanides. My most recent driver's license...records my first name simply as Cal." So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction. |
| <i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> | Kingsolver | <i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical minister who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. This tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction, over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa, is set against history's most dramatic political parables.  |
| <i>Beloved</i>              | Morrison   | This Pulitzer Prize winning-novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison stares into the abyss of slavery and transforms history into a story as powerful as <i>Exodus</i> and as   |

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|                                  |         | intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died namelessly and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.  |
| <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>   | Ng      | In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned - from the layout of the winding roads to the colors of the houses to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants - all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town - and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood - and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. |
| <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>   | Owens   | For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.   |
| <i>State of Wonder</i>           | Patchet | Dr. Marina Singh, a research scientist with a Minnesota pharmaceutical company, is sent to Brazil to track down her former mentor, Dr. Annick Swenson, who seems to have all but disappeared in the Amazon while working on what is destined to be an extremely valuable new drug, the development of which has already cost the company a fortune. Nothing about Marina's assignment is easy: not only does no one know where Dr. Swenson is, but the last person who was sent to find her, Marina's research partner Anders Eckman, died before he could complete his mission. Plagued by trepidation, Marina embarks on an odyssey into the insect-infested jungle in hopes of finding her former mentor as well as answers to several troubling questions about her friend's death, the state of her company's future, and her own past.  |
| <i>White Teeth</i>               | Smith   | Zadie Smith takes on race, sex, class, history, and the minefield of gender politics, and such is her wit and inventiveness that these weighty subjects seem effortlessly light. She also has an impressive geographical range, guiding the reader from Jamaica to Turkey to Bangladesh and back again. The book's home base is a scrubby North London borough, where we encounter Smith's unlikely heroes: prevaricating Archie Jones and intemperate Samad Iqbal, who served together in the so-called Buggered Battalion during World War II. In the ensuing decades, both have gone forth and multiplied. The mixed blessings of assimilation are an ongoing torture for Samad as he watches his sons grow up. These classic immigrant fears--of dilution and disappearance--are no laughing matter. Zadie Smith's characters aren't heroic, just real: warm, funny, misguided, and entirely familiar.  |
| <i>The Confederacy of Dunces</i> | Toole   | The hero of this tragicomic classic that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981 is Ignatius J. Reilly, an absurdly self-absorbed "Don Quixote" of the French Quarter whose romp through New Orleans and oddball encounters make for one of the funniest spot-on satires in American Literature.   |