

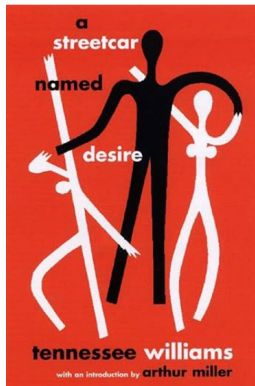
Harrison High School English Department

AP Literature Pre-Course Required Reading Assignment 2026-2027

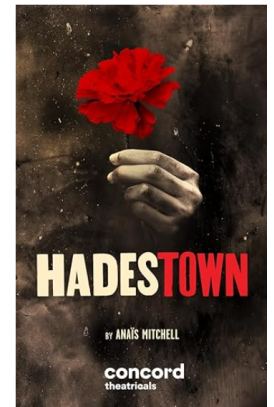
PRE-COURSE REQUIRED READING PHILOSOPHY:

The pre-course required assignment is an opportunity for students to review pre-requisite skills, including vocabulary acquisition, literary analysis, reading comprehension, and effective writing. The required texts form the basis of our first unit of study in AP Literature. Students who wish to further enhance their preparation for college-level English courses, including AP Literature, are encouraged to complete the bonus enrichment assignment in addition to the required assignment. Completing the bonus assignment will help prepare students for the AP English Literature examination in May 2027.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT:



1. Obtain a copy of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, a short play by Tennessee Williams, and *Hadestown*, a musical play by Anaïs Mitchell. **Read both plays** and be ready to discuss them fully on the first day of the semester. This is our first unit of study. Bring your books to class.
2. Since both texts are plays, the reading time should be a commitment of a couple of hours, tops. You may choose to annotate or not. Annotations will help you with the assignments in the first unit of study.
3. If you need a structured approach to support your reading, or if you want to preview the important concepts we will cover in these texts in our first unit of study, the resources in the [shared folder](#) may help. You'll find the Big 6 Chart (a summary document of the AP Literature standards that guide our learning throughout the semester), a suggested reading schedule, and a graphic organizer if you like to take notes while you read. The "Invitation to Notice" guidelines below are a summary of key concepts that correspond with the Big 6 Chart in the [shared folder](#).



Invitation to Notice

- **Character** relationships and complexities
- Time, place, values of the **setting**; characters' relationships to it
- Text **structure** (chronological, cause and effect, order of importance, flashback, scene and act breaks)
- **Narration**/point of view and its effect on the reader
- Author's choices in **language** (diction, imagery, symbolism, comparisons, syntax)
- Selection (or purposeful omission) of key details**
- Author's purpose & intended audience**
- Contrast, irony, or duality**

**These elements can function through any of the Big 6 categories and often overlap. They function along with the other elements to convey theme.

BONUS ASSIGNMENT (you may complete one or all of the prompts; required annotations due the first day of school):

***You may NOT use novels/plays you read for previous English classes (e.g., *Animal Farm*, *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Night Circus*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Things Fall Apart*, etc.).**

1. One of the most effective ways to prepare for the AP Literature exam is to read and thoroughly analyze novels, plays, and/or epics of literary merit. One of the Free Response Questions on the exam gives you a prompt (usually connected to theme) and requires you to respond using specific details from a long work of fiction. Choose a book to read before school starts; this [blog post](#) can lead you in the right direction. **Annotate throughout the book using the “Invitation to Notice” suggestions above.** Prepare to write an in-class response to an AP Free Response Question. **You must turn in your annotations/notes the first day of school and set an appointment with your teacher to complete your timed writing component to the bonus assignment in the first five days of school.**
2. Locate a film adaptation for the book you chose for #1. For example, you might read the 1847 novel *Jane Eyre* written by Charlotte Brontë and watch the 2001 film *Jane Eyre* directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga. **Take notes as you view;** use [Duke University's Writing About Film](#) handout and the [University of Washington's Film Questions](#) handout to guide you. Prepare to write an in-class compare/contrast essay analyzing the film director's choices for adapting the book and critiquing the effects of his/her choices. **You must turn in your annotations/notes the first day of school and set an appointment with your teacher to complete your timed writing component to the bonus assignment in the first five days of school.**
3. One of the Free Response Questions on the exam gives you a prompt to analyze a poem. Begin your journey learning to appreciate the craft of lyrical poetry by reading it. Find a reputable source of published poetry ([Poets.org](#), [Poetry Out Loud](#), and [Poetry Foundation](#) are all good places to find quality poetry). Read as much as you can. Make it a habit! For the assignment, select five poems to analyze. **Either print or copy the poem into an editable document, and annotate using these suggestions from the Big 6 chart and the [Garden of English](#).** You may find this [graphic organizer](#) helpful (feel free to copy the document and replace the poem with the ones you select). Prepare to write an in-class response to an AP Free Response Question. **You must turn in your annotations/notes the first day of school and set an appointment with your teacher to complete your timed writing component to the bonus assignment in the first five days of school.**