

AP English Literature and Composition

Pre-Course Reading for 2026-2027

Long fiction and drama are an important component of the AP English Literature and Composition course. You may wish to review the [College Board's Course and Exam Description](#) before the beginning of the year to better understand the purpose of our reading.

#1: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt (2022)



After reading, you may also want to watch the new movie on Netflix.

#2: Choice Book

Review [this link](#) - be sure to read the entire page, as it goes from new titles to trends to best overall choices. Choose **ONE** text from this page as your second book, with the following caveats:



- NO *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley or *Othello* by William Shakespeare, as we will read these in class.
- NO *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry or *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, because you read these in Honors or Magnet Lit Comp 3/AP Lang.
- Magnet: NO *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue, since you read this in Magnet Lit Comp 3.
- If this list inspires an idea for a similar book option not listed, please email Ms. Zavala or Ms. Yeganegi for approval (contact information on the next page).

Important Note for Parents/Guardians: Please research accordingly before your student selects his/her choice book. You may wish to use resources such as Goodreads Reviews, Library Thing, and Common Sense Media to ensure that you and your student are comfortable with the material in the books chosen.

What Do I Do?

Read, annotate, and enjoy! If you own your book, write in it. If you do not own your book, use sticky notes. Annotating means underlining, commenting, questioning, bracketing, joining with arrows, and numbering. It is NOT highlighting randomly and moving on.

By interacting with the text, chances are you will more closely read the text, and since you will use these two novels to complete assignments for the course, the information you “save” in annotations saves you time in the project.

This course highlights Essential Knowledge and Skills. Focus on these as you mark your texts and read to prove your understanding. You should think about and analyze the following:

Characters	Setting	Plot
Structure	Narrator or Speaker	Diction
Imagery	Symbols	Comparisons/Contrasts

What Next?

Both books will be used for instruction and assessment once the course begins. Please be prepared at the beginning of the semester with these two books, and please remember that not completing pre-course reading will put you at a disadvantage from the onset, which we do not want.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

Email Ms. Zavala (rebecca.zavala@cobbk12.org) or Ms. Yeganegi (alexandra.yeganegi@cobbk12.org) if you need anything over the summer.