

**Advanced Placement English: Literature & Composition**  
**2024 Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Lassiter High School**

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature & Composition! As a student in this course, you will engage in the careful reading and analysis of culturally significant, classic works of poetry and prose. In order to begin the 2024-2025 school year on a positive note, finish the following reading and corresponding assignments during the first few weeks of school.

**Analysis of the Short Story**

Select **THREE** of the short stories listed below, print out a hard copy of each story you select, and closely read each. As you read, **ANNOTATE ON THE HARD COPY OF EACH STORY.**

*"Eveline" by James Joyce*

*"The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne*

*"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

*"Everyday Use" by Alice Walker*

*"The Black Cat" by Edgar Allen Poe*

*"Epicac" by Kurt Vonnegut*

*"A Worn Path" by Eudora Welty*

*"How to Tell A True War Story" by Tim O'Brien*

*"Rules of the Game" by Amy Tan*

*"The Lady with the Toy Dog" by Anton Chekhov*

*"A Temporary Matter" by Jhumpa Lahiri*

*"Bunchgrass at the End of the World" by Annie Proulx*

*"Woman at Hollering Creek" by Sandra Cisneros*

**Short Story Annotation Guidelines:**

- ✓ **Characters** in literature allow readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and cultural norms represented by those characters. Annotate for such elements as characters' defining traits, beliefs, behaviors, their role(s)—both literal and figurative, and the ways in which each contributes to the story's meaning.
- ✓ **Setting** and the details associated with it not only depict a time and a place, but also convey values and meanings associated with that setting. Annotate for the ways in which setting(s) is described and the ways in which it contributes to the story's meaning.
- ✓ **Narration** refers to the narrator's or speaker's perspective and how this controls the details and emphases that affect how readers experience and interpret a text. Annotate for such elements as narrative style, structure, point of view, voice, focus, and tone/attitude.
- ✓ **Figurative language** such as comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative. Annotate for such elements as major symbols, motifs, irony, allusion, and metaphor utilized in the story and the ways in which each contributes to the novel's meaning.
- ✓ **Theme** or author's purpose
- ✓ Any additional impressions, predictions, reactions, connections, thoughts, or insights.
- ✓ Words you don't know—define them!

Annotations should be purposeful, thoughtful, and meaningful. Do not merely label parts/passages of the story with one word—always provide explanations and commentary for each annotation.

## Analysis of Poems

Select THREE of the poems listed below, print out a hard copy of each poem you select, and closely read each. As you read, **ANNOTATE ON THE HARD COPY OF EACH POEM.**

"The History Teacher" by Billy Collins  
"Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats  
"The Flea" by John Donne  
"London" by William Blake  
"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas  
"I Felt a Funeral in my Brain" by Emily Dickinson  
"Crossing the Swamp" by Mary Oliver  
"Desert Places" by Robert Frost  
"Mirror" by Sylvia Plath  
"The Widow's Lament in Springtime" by William Carlos Williams  
"Blackberries for Amelia" by Richard Wilbur  
"The Voice You Hear When You Read Silently" by Thomas Lux  
"Truth" by Gwendolyn Brooks  
"Personal Helicon" by Seamus Heaney  
"Under the Vulture Tree" by David Bottoms  
"The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop

**Poetry Analysis Guidelines: In the margins of the poem OR on the back, answer EACH of the following 10 questions in 2-3 complete sentences.**

Poetry Analysis- 10 essential questions

1. Who is the speaker in this poem? What kind of person is he or she?
2. To whom is the speaker speaking, or in other words, who is the audience?
3. What are the situation and setting in time (era) and place?
4. What is the purpose of the poem?
5. State the poem's central idea or theme in a singular sentence.
6. Describe the structure of the poem. How does this relate to content?
7. What is the tone of the poem? How is it achieved?
8. Notice the poem's diction. Discuss any words which seem especially well-chosen.
9. Are there predominant usages of figurative language? What is the effect?
  - a. Metaphors
  - b. Similes
  - c. Imagery
  - d. Allusions
  - e. Personification
  - f. Symbols
10. Explain the use of any sound devices and whether or not they aid in conveying tone or theme.

***We will begin the year reading *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. Please purchase over the summer.*** Enjoy your summer reading! The stories and poems are truly outstanding, and we believe that you will find each of them engaging. If you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignments, please feel free to email us at:

[todd.henry@cobbk12.org](mailto:todd.henry@cobbk12.org) or [hilary.minich@cobbk12.org](mailto:hilary.minich@cobbk12.org) or [Anthony.Sanacore@cobbk12.org](mailto:Anthony.Sanacore@cobbk12.org)