



In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become lifelong learners. Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

AP English IV 2018 Summer Reading Adventure/Assignment

(depending on how you look at it ☺)

Dear AP English IV student:

You have chosen to take AP English IV which is a college level Literature and Composition class. In this class, we read literature and write about literature. So, you will begin by reading two literary selections this summer. For this adventure/assignment, you will need to obtain a copy of the following TWO books:

Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* written in 1837

AND

Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* written in 2003

We will be taking quite a ride with these two selections. There is a little something for everyone. We hope you will enjoy both a classic and a contemporary piece. ☺ These seemingly different books may have more in common than you think!

It is always preferable if you can manage to purchase your own copies. Make every effort to do so if at all possible. (*Jane Eyre* should be available free online as most classics are; both are available in paperback at new and used bookstores. Electronic readers are fine as well--not phones) You will need copies of the books for use in class for the first 4-6 weeks of school, so plan accordingly and be prepared. We will begin our study using *Jane Eyre* on DAY ONE with a major grade the fourth week, and then, we will begin our study of *Kite Runner* with a major grade the sixth week. Speaking of *Kite Runner*, please be advised of the mature nature of this contemporary novel. Please email if you have any questions concerning this piece.

As you read, you will of course annotate or take notes directly in the book. That means mark anything that looks, smells, or sounds important! It means **read with a pen in your hand and interact with the novel**—draw a sad face when you or a character is sad; draw a smiley face when, well, when you or a character is happy! Mark literary devices; use any annotating skills you have. I have no doubt that you know what to do. Just remember, these books are not Twilight-ish, fun, easy reads. These are novels on which you will hopefully write fabulous essays! Keep that purpose in mind as you read and read accordingly. All annotations will be for **extra credit** AND in May, when you want to review these novels for the AP Exam, you'll be glad that you annotated.

Here are suggestions that can help you in your reading:

For *Jane Eyre*:

- This novel is organized by FIVE locations:
 - Gateshead Hall (ch. 1-4)
 - Lowood Institute (ch. 5-10)
 - Thornfield Hall (ch. 11-27)
 - Moor House (ch. 28-35)
 - Ferndean Manor (ch. 36-38)
- Keep a character list of all the characters in each location.

For *Kite Runner*

- This novel is chronological and historically accurate, so you could keep a timeline of significant dates.
- Also-- keep a character list as you go.

Optional Extra Credit: (well worth it and available for both books)

Along with your annotations (which are extra credit), give a title to each and every chapter in the novel. Please do this actually in the book on the first page of each chapter or use a sticky note on the first page of each chapter. Don't feel like your title has to be incredibly clever. It may simply state the main happening of that chapter, ex. "Jane returns to Gateshead" or it may go deeper, ex. for the same chapter, "Jane seeks forgiveness" This is evaluative in the short term and extremely helpful later as well.

Other important information:

Okay-- here's the deal. You should read this summer. You should start with *Jane Eyre*, and you should read it. Really. In order to be successful on the AP exam, you need to be able to read and understand classic literature. In order to be ready for college, you need to be mature enough to do the readings assigned in a course. Take ownership of your education and your learning. Don't blow this off or put this off. Trust me, you will wish you had read it, so just go ahead and do it. Rise to the occasion! Word of caution: both of these books have recently been made into films. We've seen them. While these film adaptations have their merits, they omit vast sections and differ greatly from the novels. Watching these films this summer can also cloud your mind and actually cause you to forget the book. Use your own judgment on viewing the films in conjunction with your reading; but in no way can the film substitute for reading the book, and neither can Sparknotes. There is no substitute for the text itself. It is critical that you can read literature and speak and write about it intelligently. Also, the beginning of your senior year will be very busy. You will be working on college essays and applications as well as taking several other challenging courses. This is called summer reading for a reason. ☺ It is in your best interest to at least read *Jane* this summer. We won't start *Kite Runner* until the 4th week and it is a much faster read, BUT you will be busy with many, many other things by then. Just saying.

Lastly, in both of these novels our main characters go on a journey. In both cases, as you will learn, it is a journey of self-discovery. We hope you enjoy these novels and perhaps you will have your own self-discovery this summer as a prelude to the journey that is your SENIOR YEAR! These novels will challenge you to think, and we can't wait to discuss them with you! We look forward to our adventures together in AP English IV. Happy reading, have a great summer, and see you in August... let the journey begin!

Lovingly,
Mrs. Arnst and Mrs. Cox

P.S. If you have any questions about the assignment or as you read, please do not hesitate to email lcox@conroeisd.net or ramst@conroeisd.net

