

AP Literature and Composition
2019-2020 Summer Reading Assignments :

Oedipus Rex
Oedipus at Colonus
Antigone

Welcome to AP literature! The pace is rigorous; the rewards great. This course will prepare you well for the demands of college and, more importantly, it will expose you to outstanding literature as well as hone your analytical writing and critical thinking skills. Over the course of the academic year we will be reading and writing at a rapid pace. Therefore, the summer reading program is designed to keep you active as readers and writers; the selections are intended to give you a firm basis in classical literature, which is constantly referred to during the course throughout the year.

Each of the following responses requires a minimum of 750 words.

Each of these responses will be graded individually, but the average of the three papers will count 20% of your first nine weeks grade.

All three papers are due on the Friday of the first full week of class. There is a 10 point late penalty per day on each paper turned in late.

Summer Reading Assignment #1

The ongoing philosophical debate of whether human life is governed by fate or individual freewill is the subject of much of the world's best literature. In a well-organized essay, demonstrate that the fate versus freewill puzzle is at the heart of the Oedipus myth. Use Oedipus Rex as your reference point. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Summer Reading Assignment #2

"In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life 'is a search for justice.'"

Choose a character from Oedipus at Colonus who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character's understanding of justice, the degree to which the character's search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.

Summer Reading Assignment #3

Choose a complex and important character in Antigone who might on the basis of the character's actions alone be considered evil or immoral. In a well-organized essay, explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might. Avoid plot summary.