

AP English Literature & Composition
Summer Assignment

Dear incoming AP Lit students,

In AP English Literature, we study how authors develop poetry, drama, and literary fiction. We examine how authors use figurative language, symbolism, imagery, and diction; we analyze how authors evoke setting and depict conflict, characterization, and point of view. In all we do, we are keenly interested in how these literary elements work together to create larger thematic ideas.

Students in AP English Literature are challenged to weave an understanding of the texts they've read into sophisticated interpretations. Ultimately, students learn how to read closely, think critically, and write analytically. It's an exciting and demanding course that prepares students to do college-level work while they are still in high school.

During the summer of 2022, you are **required** to read Margaret Atwood's [*The Handmaid's Tale*](#) and George Orwell's [*1984*](#). Both of these renowned novels have often been included in the open-ended novel-based question on the AP Literature exam. Within the first week of school, you will be assessed on your understanding of the two novels. There will be a multiple choice test and an in-class writing assessment, which will allow you to see this course's level of rigor and to determine if this is the right course for you.

We highly recommend that you **purchase your own copy of both books** to annotate while you read. If you would like to borrow a copy of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *1984* from the school, books will be available **2:45-3:05pm on Tuesday, June 14th** at the second floor corner of B and D hall. The BCCLS public library system has copies, but availability can be limited.

If you have any further questions, please see one of us before the school year ends.

Have a great summer,
Ms. Buyes, Mr. Nelson, and Ms. Roger