

A.P. English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is a challenging course for students who love to read serious literature and who are eager to work hard to learn to write thoughtfully about the mature and complex topics in these works. To prepare for the opportunities and challenges of Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, students must read the following texts selected by the English department:

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

The Book of Job- The Bible

Each of these books is available on www.amazon.com and limited copies will be available from Mrs. Chevan. *The Book of Job* is available online at www.bibledatabase.net. We recommend the Jewish Publication Society OT 1917 version. Please download a copy to have with you in September. There are many other versions of the text on the website. Feel free to review some of them for comparison purposes.

The Task---

After reading, students must answer the following questions for **ALL THREE TEXTS**, using specific textual references.

Work should be typed and should reflect the student's own original thinking (i.e., NOT informed by study guides or other online or print resources). Do *your own* thinking, analyzing, and writing.

WRITTEN RESPONSES WILL BE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

This assignment will be your first major grade for the marking period and will be evaluated on specificity, depth, and insight

1. Discuss the protagonist's ability to *control* the direction of his life. What factors prevent him from living the life he desires? What is out of his control...or controlling him?
2. Identify and discuss some of the *formative experiences* that shaped the character's beliefs and values. What events in the novel shape him or change him?
3. Discuss the discrepancy between his beliefs/world view and that of "reality" as the author presents it. Is there a disconnect between *objective and subjective reality*?
4. Discuss *love* as this character desires it and experiences it. Again, how are the two different?
5. Discuss *faith*: in what does this character place his faith? Faith can be viewed in a religious sense, or as other essential "truths" on which this characters relies.
6. What role does the environment play in relation to the character? How does time, nature or the physical landscape become a factor?
7. What are some of the notable literary techniques that the author employs to create mood, character and theme? Narrative techniques? Symbols? Talk about *how* the novel is crafted.