

June 2010

Dear Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Student:

Welcome to A.P. English Literature! This promises to be a very exciting year for you (and for us), and we hope that this course is an important part of your senior plans.

To prepare for the A.P. exam and for the course, read this summer. The exam allows you to choose a “work of literary merit” that you know well for one of the essays; in addition, our class discussion will refer to classics typically studied at El Camino. Consequently, reading and/or rereading the following works will be to your benefit:

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* and *A Tale of Two Cities*

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman; The Crucible*

William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet*

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

The more, and the more deeply, you read, the better prepared you will be for the test and for the course (and, we think, for your life). As such, your summer preparation includes:

- 1) Read *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (multiple-choice test during the first week of school). Understanding these allusions will increase your enjoyment of and appreciation for works of literature we will study throughout the year.
- 2) Read Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* (essay exam).
- 3) Review the main characters and stories in the *Bible* (Hebrew and Christian testaments), particularly Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, Song of Solomon, Matthew, Acts of the Apostles, and Revelation (if you did not read selections of the Bible for your 11th grade English class, read these selections now to be ready for allusions in our texts).
- 4) If you did not take AP English Language and Composition in 11th grade, this would be a time to get *Five Steps To a Five* and to start working with the practice materials.
- 5) Write your personal statement, according to all instructions on the ECR website. If you would prefer to respond to the prompt(s) of a private school, you may do so in lieu of the UC prompts, but make sure to attach the prompt(s) you are using and the length requirement. On all responses, include the number of words you have next to your MLA heading to help us best help you. These statements are due on the first day of class.

We look forward to working with you and wish you a wonderful, literary summer. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Zwick in B224 or Mrs. Gregorio in B221 (or e-mail us: Zwick=nyz6902@lausd.net, Gregorio=lissagregorio@sbcglobal.net).

Fondly,

Mrs. Gregorio and Ms. Zwick