

Dear new AP English student,

If you have met certain qualifications then you have been selected for admission into next year's Advanced Placement English Literature class. You have two reading assignments for the summer, and below are the topics about which you are required to write. Choose one topic and write one paper: typed, double-spaced, 12 point font and include an MLA format heading and title. You should also attempt to use quotes from the novel/play you are writing about. Use parenthetical citations after a quote to key back to a Works Cited page, which should include a single entry of the edition of the respective book. Your citation should appear simply as (Dickens 285) or (Ibsen 21). For the other book (whichever you do not write an essay about) fill out an evaluation worksheet other Senior English students will be using this summer (also found online). Both essay and worksheet should be completed and brought to class in their final form on the first day of school. Failure to do so will result in immediate placement in English 4. If you intend not to complete these assignments, please inform the school office of your schedule change as soon as possible. I look forward to class with you in September.

AP Summer Writing Assignments

- 1.) "Recalled to Life" is a pervading theme throughout Charles Dickens' novel A Tale of Two Cities. Although appearing to be only a simple phrase, these three words carry broad implications when applied to various characters on either a literal or figurative level. From your understanding of the book, choose four different characters to which this phrase can be applied and discuss how each was "recalled to life." In the conclusion explain which character you think had the most significant "recalling" and why. (4-6 pages)
- 2.) Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler is in one sense a satire stereotyping characters from various classes of European society. However, upon looking deeper into the personalities within this play, one may discover Ibsen's subtle commentary on the themes of courage and cowardice. Discuss your findings on these themes, evaluating specifically the scenes between Hedda and Lovborg and among Hedda, Mrs. Elvstad and Lovborg in Act II, and, of course, Hedda's suicide. You are also encouraged to apply these themes to other characters, relationships, or scenes of your own choice.

Make sure you read each work in its entirety before you write your paper. Having the topic in mind beforehand should give you some things to look for and note as you read. I strongly encourage you to purchase your own copies of both works so that you can mark them freely. You must bring these books with you the first week of class in the fall. You must be an active participant in class discussions.

Sincerely,

