

*“That is part of the beauty of all literature.
You discover that your longings
are universal longings, that you're not lonely
and isolated from anyone. You belong.”*
—F. Scott Fitzgerald

AP LITERATURE

2017-2018 Summer Assignment

Required Reading: College essays that worked

Visit the following sites and read three or more of the successful college essays there. Take note of the qualities that make these “essays that work.” *Be prepared to discuss these essays upon return to school.*

Johns Hopkins Essays

<https://apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays-that-worked/>
<https://apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays-that-worked/2018/>

Connecticut College Essays

<https://www.conncoll.edu/admission/apply/essays-that-worked/>

New York Times article including examples

http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/06/today-essay/?_r=0

Hamilton College

<https://www.hamilton.edu/magazine/summer08/more-essays-that-worked>

University of Chicago

<http://www.law.uchicago.edu/alumni/magazine/spring11/intheirownwords>

Required Writing: College essay

Research a college you are interested in attending. Find their college entrance essay topic. (If your chosen school does not require one, find one that does or use one of the Common App ones below.) Write an essay addressing that school’s prompt. Please follow the guidelines below:

- 1) Type your paper. Double space and leave a one inch margin all around. You may print on the back if you wish.
- 2) Include the entire prompt and school name at the top of your paper.
- 3) Follow the requirements of the prompt, including word count.
- 4) Turn this paper in on the first Monday of the school year: August 14.

Need an essay topic?

Common App Essay topics for 2017-2018: <http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announces-2017-2018-essay-prompts>

Recommended Reading:

A successful AP Literature student is a well-read one. Attached is a list of novels that have been cited as options on Question #3 of the AP Lit test between 1970 and 2014. It is highly suggested that you add one or more of the novels on this list to your personal summer reading list. Pay attention to those that have been referenced multiple times as these represent the most versatile books. (I have placed asterisks next to my personal favorites ☺).

It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.—Oscar Wilde

ADDITIONAL BOOKS

How many times were these books cited on the AP Literature exam between 1970-2014?

- 26** *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- 20** *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte *
- 18** *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens *
- 17** *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- 16** *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad *
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte *
- 15** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
- 14** *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce
- 13** *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne *
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zorah Neale Hurston *
- 12** *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald *
- 11** *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville
Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
Light in August by William Faulkner *
- 10** *Antigone* by Sophocles
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner *
Beloved by Toni Morrison
The Color Purple by Alice Walker *
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
Native Son by Richard Wright
Othello by William Shakespeare
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
- 9** *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller *
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
- 8** *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Candide by Voltaire
The Crucible by Arthur Miller *
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
- 7** *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren
Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert *
Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
The Tempest by William Shakespeare
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
- 6** *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton
A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen
An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen
Equus by Peter Shaffer
Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen *
Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw
Medea by Euripides
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot
Obasan by Joy Kogawa
The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee
- 5** *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens
The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov
Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Macbeth by William Shakespeare *
Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw
Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor