

AP English Literature and Composition

Mr. Malley's 2011-2012 Pre-Course Assignment

Welcome to **AP English Literature and Composition**. I'm pleased that you're taking this course because I enjoy teaching it. Even though this is a rigorous course requiring a good deal of reading literature and writing about it, I hope we'll have some fun along the way. One of my goals is to help you learn to analyze literature and write about it skillfully in preparation for the AP exam in May. That's the purpose of this pre-course assignment. You are required to purchase the following two books:

Casson, Allan. *CliffsAP English Literature and Composition*. 2nd Ed. New York.: HungryMinds. 2001.
Negri, Paul. *Great American Short Stories*. Mineola, N.Y.: Dover Publications, 2002. Print.

The above books are available at Family Book Shop in DeLand. Be sure to mention that these books are required texts for this class. You may also find books for required reading at other local bookstores and online book vendors such as Amazon.com. Feel free to contact me at jmmalley@volusia.k12.fl.us if you have any questions about this pre-course assignment or about the class in general. Here is your pre-course reading assignment:

Read the following five short stories in the *Great American Short Stories* anthology:

- *Young Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe
- *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* by Ambrose Bierce
- *The Killers* by Ernest Hemingway

Download and read the following five poems (website locations under each title):

- *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou
(www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15623)
- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
(ia301515.us.archive.org/3/items/therimeoftheanci00151gut/151-h/151-h.htm)
- *Introduction to Poetry* by Billy Collins
(www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/20177)
- *Theme for English B* by Langston Hughes
(www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15614)
- *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
(www.online-literature.com/tennyson/710)

You are strongly urged to annotate as you read the stories and poems in order to gain understanding and raise questions about the text. Be prepared to write a well-organized analytical response to a prompt associated with one of these works on the first day of class. This exercise is called *Writing on Demand*. You will be required to perform this exercise throughout the year, which will prepare you for the rigors of the AP exam in May. Assigning you to write on the first day of class allows me to review your writing abilities, and it gets you used to "writing off the top of your head."

Review *CliffsAP*. Carefully read the sections on literary and poetic terminology. You will be quizzed on the terms throughout the school year. You are encouraged to take the practice tests in the book to gain familiarity with the types of multiple-choice questions and essay prompts on the AP English Literature exam in May.

A final note: This course will challenge you and push you to become better writers and better readers. I sincerely hope you find it fulfilling as you approach May. Thanks for coming along!