**Required Summer Reading for AP Literature 2015**

**Completing the following assignments is a necessary step in Advance Placement English, as it will prepare you for the rest of the year.**

You can either borrow these titles, read online or order them for yourself. I recommend ordering your own copy, so that you may write in it (take notes in the margins, or mark anything you don’t fully understand). If you would like to order your own copy-the following two sources have the best prices (the books usually range between $1 and $3).

[www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com) or [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)

***The Bible*** (the King James Version or the New Standard Version is best for syntax and structure)

Read the following excerpts from the Bible—there is no writing to accompany this reading. You should view these sections as **literature**, not as religious teachings. They provide background for many of the allusions in the literature we will be studying later this year; therefore you must be familiar with the verses.

*OLD TESTAMENT*

From the book of “**Genesis”**

Ch 1-4 Creation and the Fall of Mankind/Cain & Abel

Ch 6-8 Flood

Ch 11-12 Babel/Beginning of Israel/Jewish Nation

Ch 19 Sodom & Gomorrah

Ch 22 Abraham Tested

From the book “**Exodus”**

Ch 1-11 Moses & Plagues/ “Deliverance”

Ch 20 Ten Commandments

“**Judges”**

Ch 13-16 Samson/Delilah

“**Samuel 1”**

Ch 16—17:54 David & Goliath

“**Kings 1”**

1. Wisdom of Solomon

**“Isaiah”**

14:12-15 Treachery/Fall of Satan

*NEW TESTAMENT*

“**Matthew”**

Ch 1-4 Jesus, John the Baptist, Temptation

Ch 14:1-36 Miracles

Ch 18:21-25 Forgiveness

Ch 26-28 Last supper, crucifixion, resurrection

***Beowulf***  (There are numerous versions, I suggest either the Raffel or Heany verse translations—DO NOT get a prose version.) \*\*If you had English 11, please note that you only read an EXCERPT---you will now be reading the reading the piece in its entirety.

You should **research the epic hero**, and be familiar with the traits associated with this type of hero. Be familiar with the **characteristics of the epic itself** as well. Nothing needs to be turned in for this reading assignment; however, there will be **a quiz/test** on this piece when you return in the fall.

**Ibsen, Henrik*. A Doll’s House****.*

As you read the play in its entirety, take notes for yourself. **I will use these notes as a checkpoint** in September. You can write in the book if you wish. Your notes should show me that you read, but reflect your own ideas/opinions and critiques of the acts and the play itself. Be sure to address the following questions at some point within your note-taking.

1. Explain the symbolic meaning/significance of the title. The play was originally entitled A Doll House, what difference does that make in your interpretation and reading? Is there only one doll in the play?

2. Define protagonist, antagonist and foil. If Nora & Helmer are the protagonist and antagonist, who are the foil(s) to each?

3. Discuss which issues contribute to Nora’s characterization; her husband’s nicknames for her, her fondness for sweets, her deceptions, the games with the children, her prodigality with money.

4. Is Nora’s final act an act of failure or triumph? Explain.

**Your final assignment is poetry. Read the following William Butler Yeat’s poem:**

**Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half-light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.**

1. You are to type a one-page, double spaced response to this piece, explaining both your personal interpretation of the poem (I will know if you merely “Google” it), and the way it applies to you at this point in your life. This is your chance for me to learn about WHO YOU ARE.

2. **Finally, choose a song that you believe defines you, print the lyrics, and type a one page response explaining why the song you chose defines you in some way. Put some thought into this—this will be my first impression of you as a person.** You will not be asked to share these with your peers, so be as honest as possible.

You may also choose to order these additional titles, as we may be reading these selections throughout the course of next year, though this list is subject to change.

***1984* (Orwell) *Othello (Shakespeare)***

***The Tempest (Shakespeare) The Great Gatsby (Fitzgerald)***

***Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)* *Pride and Prejudice (Austen) Heart of Darkness (Conrad)* *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini) T*he Screwtape Letters* (Lewis*) Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* (Sillitoe)**

I am available if you need help or have questions through the summer— email me. [**melissa.kevonian@uticak12.org**](mailto:melissa.kevonian@uticak12.org) However, I do not check my email daily in the summer, so it may be a matter of days before I can respond to you. And emailing me the night before school is not a good choice.

The written responses are due the first day of school, no exceptions! The tests/assignments will be at the start of the school year, so be prepared—we may or may not discuss the material prior to the assignments.

**The majority of the year will be based upon the discussions we have as a class (and your participation is a MUST), so being prepared is not a request, it is a necessity**.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the fall; we should have a great year ahead of us!