

English 4AP: Summer Reading Packet Summer 2010

Let me be the first to officially welcome you to Advanced Placement English in this last of your four years in high school. All students taking AP English must read John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, and Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*, and complete the following assignments over the summer. These assignments will directly influence your first marking period grade and will help form my first impressions of your writing, work ethic, and attention to detail. The completed study guide activities contained in this packet **will be collected on the first day of class**. Let me offer you two pieces of advice for completing this assignment: first, do not leave this work until the last week of August, and secondly, it will serve you best to complete these assignments as you read.

In order to assure that all students have completed the reading thoroughly and in a timely manner, you can expect to take a test on all three texts in the first week of class. The test format will be explained on the first day of class, but you can expect the tests to be straightforward quote identification, character identification, and multiple-choice tests.

East of Eden – John Steinbeck

1. Before you start to read, turn to Chapter 22, Section 4, and read the Biblical passage, *taking notes* on the specifics. As you read the novel, locate references to the Biblical story and write them down. Include at least five direct quotes in your notes. You may wish to include page numbers, as that will save you time later.
2. Note the role that the author plays throughout the novel. Write down at least five direct quotes that illustrate his thoughts, feelings, and/or his personal place in the events of the story.

The Fountainhead – Ayn Rand

1. Keep two running lists, one of major characters (15 most important characters) and one of building projects, and be sure to include some brief notes next to each entry to help you keep them straight.
2. Note the role that Toohy plays throughout the novel and the situations/people that he manipulates throughout the story. Include a list of at least 5 direct quotes with explanations of how and whom he is manipulating in your quote.
3. In an informal, one-page journal, compare and contrast Peter Keating and Howard Roark. How do these two characters embody or refute Rand's philosophy of Objectivism?

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

Before you begin working on the tasks for this text, I want to take a moment and explain what I mean when I ask you to write a formal journal. Generally speaking, journals tend to be informal and reflective writing tasks. However, in this class, you will be expected to adhere to all formal rules of writing when composing journals. All journals should contain an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, and all writing should be edited and supported with textual examples. The journal part of the formal journal refers to the length of the writing assignment. All journals are a minimum of one typed page (preferably double spaced), and a maximum of two typed pages. This means your writing should be focused, clear, and concise.

1. Trace the use of flashbacks throughout the text by keeping a list of all major flashbacks in the novel. You do not need to re-write the text, but you should keep a list with two columns: one that summarizes the flashback, and one that explains its importance. Page numbers will allow you to find the passage quickly for future referencing.
2. In a formal journal, reflect on the development of Edna's relationships to other characters, both male and female. How do they reveal social or gender roles she desires or does not desire?
3. In a formal journal, explain how Mademoiselle Reisz and Madame Ratignolle function in relation to Edna and the novel's view of women as authors and mothers. What kind of mother is Edna? What kind of artist is she?
4. Use the following link to retrieve Robert Treu's article, "Surviving Edna: A reading of the ending of *The Awakening*."
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3709/is_200004/ai_n8890959 In a formal 2-3 page essay, respond to the ideas presented in the article. Use specific textual examples from the article and the text to support your response. Do more than simply agree or disagree with the author.

** If you have any questions over the summer about the reading or the work, feel free to contact me via email at jbenbow@roxbury.org, or at home at benbowj@optonline.net. *Please be sure to keep this email information private.* I will be out of town in early August for two weeks, so please be sure to get your questions to me quickly.