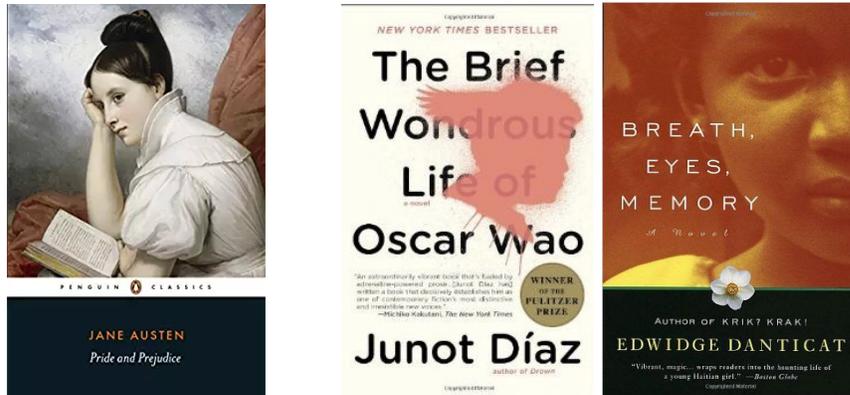


The Potomac School
AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignments 2017



AP English Summer Reading: The readings will take some effort, so you should plan your time this summer. You may wish to read *Pride and Prejudice* later in the summer, as it will be more intensive in terms of assignments and we will discuss it extensively during the first two weeks of class. If you are traveling or sitting on a beach earlier in the summer, one of the other two is a great choice!

You will read TWO novels:

- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (ISBN: 0141439513)
 - **PLEASE SEE 3 ASSIGNMENTS BELOW**

And you will also read ONE of the following:

- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz (ISBN: 1594483299) **or**
- *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat (ISBN: 0375705045)
 - While you are reading this book, please use a pencil to note such features as characterization, conflicts, imagery, recurring motifs or themes, symbols, structural elements that intrigue you (flashbacks, shifting narrators) and elements that indicate cultural identification.

For *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* OR *Breath, Eyes, Memory* please read and annotate with the following question in mind:

In this text, what are the factors (social, cultural, political, economic, material, etc.) that contribute to characters' sense of belonging? How does the text emphasize the importance of those factors of characters' inclusion in (and exclusion from) groups?

For *Pride and Prejudice*, please follow these instructions:

- 1) **AFTER** you read through Chapter 12 (XII), please watch the first episode of the BBC film:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI6xIReKbC0&list=EL5mR-y18_Gh4

2) **A day or two after you read chapter 34**, write a thoughtful paragraph comparing the two proposal scenes you have read thus far. How are they similar and how are they different?
You should hand this in on the first day of school.

3) As you learn from the novel, writing letters was the way people communicated in the 19th century. But we are not very accustomed to doing so nowadays.

Epistolary novels (narratives built around a series of letters) were extremely popular before Jane Austen's time; in fact, she originally wrote *Pride and Prejudice* as an epistolary novel, and the published edition includes and depends upon key letters that influence plot direction.

We are asking you to adopt the perspective of one character you have met in *Pride and Prejudice*. Think carefully about that particular character's attitudes, mannerisms, and ways of speaking. Then, *through that character's lens*, look at your own immediate society as you know it, and develop a modern commentary in the form of a letter. Your letter should show evidence of your understanding of the character. *Use contemporary language and lingo; translate that character's speech into modern speech.*

Assume the role of a modernized version of one character {female: Jane, Lydia, Charlotte Lucas, or Caroline Bingley; male: you may either write from Darcy to Bingley or vice versa}. Write a letter (at least 250 words) from your female character to a modern Elizabeth Bennet or from one of the two gentleman to the other in which you describe, in detail, your *observations* of a Potomac Dance, like Junior Prom or Winter Formal (if you did not attend a recent dance, provide opinions of another Potomac dance or other student event). Be sure to capture the *tone* of your chosen character in your contemporary language. What would your character choose to describe and how? **Use your wit – think about the genre of *satire* (How could your letter ridicule or target elements of a high school dance and/or the attitudes of your assumed character? What are your society's values that deserve ridicule? Are there general masculine stereotypes in a high school society that relate to Austen's Bingley and Darcy? *Don't use any real names or aim to injure particular people—fictionalize and satirize cultural attitudes and stereotypes*). **HAVE FUN WITH IT! You should hand this in on the first day of school.****

4) You MAY watch the other BBC episodes after you finish the following chapters:

You can watch Episode 2 after you finish Chapter 20

You can watch Episode 3 after you finish Chapter 34

You can watch Episode 4 after you finish Chapter 43

You can watch Episode 5 after you finish Chapter 49

You can watch Episode 6 after you finish the novel