

# OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENT for Pre-AP

## **THE BOOK:**

You need to choose A BOOK FROM THE “AP LIST.” It must be a book that has appeared on the AP Literature Exam at least once in the last seven years.

The book should be of an APPROPRIATE READING LEVEL for your ability, something a little challenging, but not too difficult. You should check around a bit to make sure that the book you’re choosing is one you will truly be interested in reading. Find out what it’s about, what kind of style the author has, before you settle in.

The most important criteria are that you must be interested in reading the book and it must be on THE LIST I prepared for you. Choose wisely.

## **THE ASSIGNMENT:**

You will write an index card report for your book, and you will keep a dialectical journal as you read.

The INDEX CARD REPORT format is on another handout I’ve given you, and we have practiced them in class. With each in-class novel or play, we’ll write an index card report together, so you can see how it works. As you read, you should be looking for major characters and minor characters, themes, and symbols. Look at the list of things you’ll have to record and keep it in front of you as you read. You will write on one 5x8 index card which I will provide for you.

The DIALECTICAL JOURNAL will be recorded on regular notebook paper. You will draw a line down the center of each page and label each side. The left column is for TEXT, or what the book says, and the right column is for ME, or what you say in response. In the left column, you must record at least 8 quotes from your book and at least 7 summaries or paraphrases of what your book says. In the right column, you will record your responses to these quotes and summaries.

In the ME column, you might record questions or predictions, explanations or definitions, suggestions about what a character should do, anything that is your legitimate response to the text. Each response should be about one paragraph or more in length, and ten of these entries must include literary terms. We will do several entries together in class to give you a better idea how to do this.

This is not an assignment that you will do the night before it is due. You will have to prepare ahead of time, looking for setting, narrator, and motifs to write on your index card report and recording passages that rile you up and generate a response in you for your dialectical journal.

## **THE REST OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

In addition to your index card report for one chosen book, you must also write index card reports for FOUR OTHER MAJOR WORKS that you read before you came to this class. You may include your *Gatsby* card in these four. Think about the major works that you read in ninth grade. *Romeo and Juliet* should be one of your cards. Perhaps *Fahrenheit 451* or *Anthem* should be another. You must turn in four cards in addition to the one you complete for your outside reading book.

**THE READING:**

This is the book that you will bring to class on Sustained Silent Reading (S.S.R.) days until you have completed the assignment. Then you can bring any other appropriate book to the remaining S.S.R. days.

S.S.R. days for first semester:

September 15, 29  
October 13, 27  
November 10, 17  
December 8

S.S.R. days for second semester:

January 12, 26  
February 9, 23  
March 9, 30  
April 12, 27  
May 11?

There will be a similar outside reading assignment for second semester, also.

**THE GUIDELINES FOR S.S.R. DAYS:**

On S.S.R. days, you must come prepared. Check out a book from my library or from the school library BEFORE S.S.R. day. Bring a book from home. However you do it, just do it. You must read a book, not a magazine. Until you finish your outside reading assignment, the book should be your outside reading book, the same one that you have okayed through me.

On S.S.R. day, you could earn 75 points. (That's a LOT!) All I ask is that you do these four things:

- bring a book, probably your outside reading book
- read it all hour
- without falling asleep and
- without creating any distractions.

**OTHER POINTS OPTIONS:**

Get a book during S.S.R. hour = 50 points instead of 75

Create one distraction = minus 30 points each time

Stop reading = minus 30 points each time

Fall asleep = minus 75 points and complete an extra assignment

Read a magazine = minus 75 points and complete an extra assignment

Bring nothing = minus 75 points and complete an extra assignment