

AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading Grade 12

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students are required to read two core texts, a poem, and the supplementary reading listed below before the first day of class in September. Since these works and their respective themes will continue to be addressed throughout the school year, it is imperative that you read each text closely. In order to encourage active reading, complete book notes for William Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* using the templates provided on pages 4-23. As you read Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, you will be required to annotate the text. There will be two assessments on the core texts, poem, and supplementary reading comprised of reading comprehension questions, quotation analysis, and short answers, as well as multiple essays throughout the school year. Bring your book notes for William Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*, as well as a printed copy of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* with your annotations to class on the first day of school. If possible, print the copies of your book notes and the copy of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* back-to-back.

Required Core Texts

- **William Shakespeare’s *King Lear***
 “King Lear abdicates the British throne and divides his kingdom among his three daughters in proportion to their professed love of him. His plan misfires when Cordelia, his youngest and favorite daughter, refuses to flatter her father” (www.bn.com). **Note:** A free copy of this work is available through Project Gutenberg at <http://www.gutenberg.org/>.

- **Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* (Unabridged version)**
 “Call me Ishmael. So begins *Moby-Dick*, Herman Melville’s epic account of the last voyage of the ill-fated whaling ship *Pequod*, and its captain’s obsessive pursuit of the legendary white whale that maimed him years before. Melville’s classic novel has given American literature some of its most iconic characters: Ishmael, the everyman sailor who narrates the novel; Queequeg, the South Sea island cannibal who becomes the *Pequod*’s harpooner; and Captain Ahab, a stern and stormy force of nature as formidable as the titanic whale that he hunts. Inspired by the real-life ordeal of the crew of the whaling ship *Essex* – who, in 1819, were set adrift in the heart of the sea for 89 days, after the whale they were hunting stove in their ship’s hull – and steeped in the lore and legendary of whaling as it pertained to the fledgling nation of America, Melville’s novel is widely regarded as one of the greatest American novels. More than a rousing tale of adventure on the high seas, *Moby-Dick* is acknowledged today as a fundamental exploration of the ideas and interests that shaped the American experience in the nineteenth century” (www.bn.com). **Note:** A free copy of this work is available through Project Gutenberg at <http://www.gutenberg.org/>.

- **Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner***
 “A world of fantasy that nevertheless reflects the human condition emerges from Samuel Coleridge’s famous tale of a doomed sea voyage” (www.bn.com). **Note:** Use the following link to print a copy of the poem and make annotations based on significant observations in your reading. Handwrite your annotations on the printed copy of the poem. (Literary annotation is the making of critical or explanatory notes or comments.)
 - <https://www.casdonline.org/cms/lib/PA02217736/Centricity/Domain/267/Coleridge-AncientMariner.pdf>
 - You can access this link through the OBHS webpage.
 - Go to the OBHS webpage
 - Click on Academics
 - Click on Library Media Center – OBHS
 - Click on the AP English Literature tab

Required Supplementary Reading

The supplementary reading assignments below should help frame your insights and be reflected in your analysis of each of the literary works. *It is highly recommended that you study the supplementary material **before** reading the summer reading texts.*

1. William Shakespeare’s *King Lear*

- Investigate the concept of the Great Chain of Being and consider the impact this concept has on Shakespeare’s work using the following website:
 - <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/ren.html>
 - Read the sections titled “The Great Chain of Being” and “Political Implications of the Chain of Being.”
 - You can access this website through the OBHS webpage.
 - Go to the OBHS webpage
 - Click on Academics
 - Click on Library Media Center – OBHS
 - Click on the AP English Literature tab

2. Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* (Unabridged version)

- Review the allusions Melville uses in his text.
 - Use the following website as a guide:
<http://www.readmoby.com/resources/extensions/allusions.pdf>
- Be sure to reference this resource as you read to enhance your understanding of the text. You can access this link through the OBHS webpage by following the directions specified above.
- Read the excerpt from Willard Thorp’s introductory essay to the 1947 edition of *Moby Dick*. You can access this link through the OBHS webpage by following the directions specified above.

Poetry Annotations and Book Notes

Purpose: The purpose of these activities is to help you become a more analytical, critical, and reflective reader. These assignments will encourage interaction with the text and its author in order to understand, analyze, and reflect upon what you are reading. Your completed annotations and book notes will serve as study tools for the assessments in September and the AP exam, as well as points of discussion for class activities.

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students should complete their book notes and annotations without the help of any secondary sources. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage the process of reflection. Thus, students can only “find the answers” for these assignments in their own minds.

Directions for Poetry Annotations: Print out a copy of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* using the link provided on page 2. Record your annotations directly on your copy of the poem. Consider elements such as tone, connotation, symbolism, structure, theme, and any other relevant poetic devices. Consult pages 6 and 7 of the Old Bridge High School’s Student Handbook for Writing for information on textual annotations. Follow the directions below to access the handbook.

- Go to the OBHS webpage
- Click on Students
- Click on Student Handbook for Writing
- Open link provided

Directions for Book Notes: Print out copies of the book notes on pages 4-23. Neatly handwrite your book notes and record your insights directly on the template for each core text work. Scroll below for the templates.

Name:

AP Book Notes for William Shakespeare's *King Lear*

Title of novel, play, or poem: *King Lear*

Author: William Shakespeare

1. Concise and synthesized **plot summary:**

2. **Characters**

Name of character	Characterization and effect of characterization on narrative	Conflict character faces and effect on narrative	Adjectives to describe character

Name of minor characters (Include significant minor characters)	Characterization and effect of characterization on narrative	Conflict character faces and effect on narrative	Adjectives to describe character

4.

Significant Quotations

Quotation in MLA format "Line(s) from story" (author's last name #).	What is the significance of the quotation and its connection to the story's theme?

5. **Theme**

What is a theme of the literary work?	How is the theme developed and how does it impact the literary work?

6. **Literary Device**

Specify a significant literary device utilized such as symbolism, irony, satire, or allusion.	Analyze the effect of this literary device on the text.

7. **Chronological Structure**

Identify the organizational pattern(s) such as chronology, importance of plot, epistolary form (letter form), or flashback.	What is the significance of the organizational pattern on the literary work?

8. **Ending of the literary work**

How does the narrative end?	What is the significance of this ending?

9.

Supplementary Reading

Notes on supplementary reading	What is the significance of the supplementary concept(s) within the literary work?

Name:

AP Book Notes for Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick*

Title of novel, play, or poem: *Moby-Dick*

Author: Herman Melville

1. Concise and synthesized **plot summary:**

2. **Characters**

Name of character	Characterization and effect of characterization on narrative	Conflict character faces and effect on narrative	Adjectives to describe character

Name of minor characters (Include significant minor characters)	Characterization and effect of characterization on narrative	Conflict character faces and effect on narrative	Adjectives to describe character

4.

Significant Quotations

Quotation in MLA format “Line(s) from story” (author’s last name #).	What is the significance of the quotation and its connection to the story’s theme?

5. **Theme**

What is a theme of the literary work?	How is the theme developed and how does it impact the literary work?

6. **Literary Device**

Specify a significant literary device utilized such as symbolism, irony, satire, or allusion.	Analyze the effect of this literary device on the text.

7. **Chronological Structure**

Identify the organizational pattern(s) such as chronology, importance of plot, epistolary form (letter form), or flashback.	What is the significance of the organizational pattern on the literary work?

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