

AP Literature and Composition 2024-2025
Summer Reading Assignment
Ms. Reagan
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Thank you for choosing to take AP Literature and Composition course this fall! In order to prepare for the course, you have been assigned to read *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, which you will need to purchase. The summer assignment is explained on pp. 2-4 of this document. I highly recommend that you use the majority of the summer to read this novel, as it is approximately 700 pages.

Here is the ISBN for the book:

- *East of Eden*: 9780142004234

Additionally, I have started a Google Classroom page that you should reference throughout the summer in case there are any updates or announcements about the reading. **This Google Classroom code is vtkwotw . Please “Join” the class with this code.**

Assessment and Expectations: One of the goals of this course is to help prepare you for the rigor of college classes. Therefore, one of the most important skills you will use in this class is critical reading and thinking. As you read, you should annotate the texts, take notes, discuss the texts with classmates, and plan time to re-read sections of the texts. I encourage you to take notes via sticky notes, paper, or directly on the text.

Summer Read Choices: There are numerous reasons why we read *East of Eden*. It is of literary merit, and it will be a healthy challenge for you to read. Additionally, you should be exposed to themes and ideas that are seen in texts that we will study throughout the year; in this way, you will be able to continue discussing the novel in different units. Because it serves as a biblical allegory, this novel provides an excellent opportunity to incorporate the Catholic faith in our class discussions.

College Credit: You are able to earn college credit through dual enrollment with Mt. Marty University, or by taking the AP Literature and Composition exam in the spring. Because this class is offered as dual enrollment, the class will concentrate learning styles and content that occur in the college classroom. Specific test preparation for the AP exam will not be the main focus of the class. However, the credit that you receive through Mt. Marty usually counts as an elective credit, rather than an English or Literature credit, depending on the university you plan to attend.

If you have any questions concerning the summer reading for AP Literature and Composition, please contact me at kreagan@ogknights.org.

***The summer reading assignment is listed at the bottom of this page. We will also have a quiz within the first week over the novel.**

In order for you to feel prepared for class, please consider the topics below. Be ready to discuss characters, setting, themes, and symbols when you arrive in class. These topics should give you some direction when taking notes or annotating your text.

Main characters: I recommend taking notes on these characters (What happens to each character? What motivates each character? How does each character change?). I recommend using a T-Chart to organize your notes on these characters.

Trask Family

Cyrus Trask

Adam Trask

Charles Trask

Cathy

Aron Trask

Caleb Trask

Lee (not a biological family member)

Abra (not a biological family member)

Hamilton Family

Sam Hamilton

Liza Hamilton

Hamilton children, especially Dessie, Tom, and Will

Minor characters: Consider the effect(s) these characters have on the main characters.

Faye

Joe Valery

Ethel

Mr. Edwards

Sheriff Horace Quinn

Themes/Symbols:

Life's choices

Geographical setting (Salinas Valley, urban v. rural)

Loyalty in relationships

Parent-Child relationships (especially fathers and sons)

Connections to the Bible

Assignment:

After reading *East of Eden*, review your reading notes, and select a character (main or minor from the list above) and a theme or symbol that intrigued you. Then, complete a Sketchnote that fills up TWO blank pages. You can use the front and back of a blank piece of paper, or you can use two pieces of paper. **NO LINED PAPER; blank computer/printer paper works best (8.5x11 in.). Please don't use poster boards.** The purpose of Sketchnotes is to help you better visualize main events, characters, emotions, symbols, and other important elements of the novel. Take a look at the following pages to better understand how Sketchnotes work.

This assignment is due on Thurs., 8/15 by class time.

Sketchnote Strategies and Symbols

Sketchnote Tips Carol Anne McGuire

Lettering

*prior (easy to read)

High Low
SKINNY FAT
ALL CAPS
Small Caps
Kinder
FANCY
≡ Fast
~~Reverse~~
BLOCK
3D
DASH
Script

Bullets



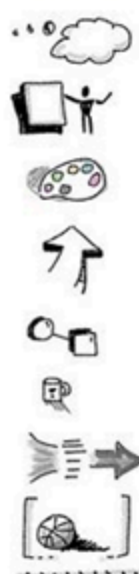
Frames



Connectors



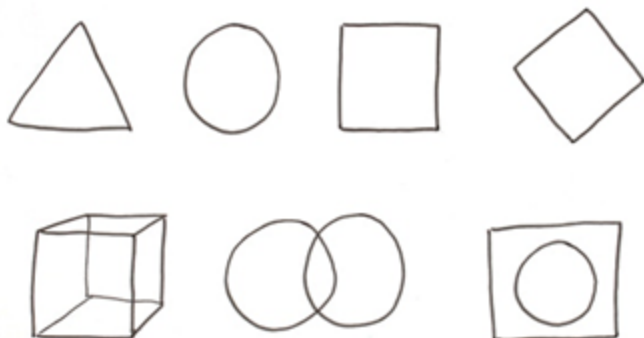
Shadows



People



Basic Shapes



Icons & Symbols



You can also use **COLOR** to emphasize or organize ideas. For example, notes concerning theme are written in **red**, tone ideas are written in **blue**, & vocabulary is written in **purple**.

Reminder:

Sketchnoting is not about artistic ability! It's about adding emphasis to your notes.

Here are some Sketchnote final products:

