

# AP Literature Summer Reading

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Mr. Wolffersdorff

## Overview

Incoming AP Literature students are required to read two books over the summer in preparation for the course and subsequent AP exam. One portion of the AP exam, the Free Response essay, demands that students have a wide range of challenging literary works on which they can draw when writing that essay. The goal of this summer's reading, however, is not just to prepare you for the exam, but to ready you for college-level coursework.

AP Literature *is* a college class. If you are looking for ways around this reading assignment, this may not be the class for you. I expect that you will have read, thought about, and taken notes so when fall semester begins in August, you are ready to frame these novels within our introductory unit.

AP classes are a lot of work, but they are also a lot of fun. I look forward to working with you next school year as we continue to develop our reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills together. If you have any questions, please email me at [ewolffersdorff@tmore.org](mailto:ewolffersdorff@tmore.org).

## Requirements

Each student must do the following:

- Choose one pair of books from the list of books below.
- Purchase or rent out the books. NOTE: You will need copies of the books during the first few weeks of the school year.
- Actively read the paired books, taking notes or annotating as needed to help you understand what you find notable. It is one thing to think something; it is another to write it down. Writing clarifies your thinking, so spend sufficient time thinking on the page.
- Within the first few days in August, you will write an in-class analysis essay on the books.

## Titles

The following pairs of books comprise a conversation that should take place between you, the authors, and their characters. The books share a common idea, and while you read, attempt to identify and explore the different possibilities for connections between the two novels.

1. *Into the Wild* (Krakauer)  
*The Odyssey* (Homer)

2. *The Sun Also Rises* (Hemingway)  
*The Things They Carried* (O'Brien)

3. *Heart of Darkness* (Conrad)  
*Life of Pi* (Martel)

4. *Ender's Game* (Scott Card)  
*Never Let Me Go* (Ishiguro)

5. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Hurston)  
*A Lesson Before Dying* (Gaines)