

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

In light of the current public health situation and modified learning environment, we will not be requiring students to complete any accompanying assignment or project for any summer reading for the 2020-2021 school year.

Eng IV AP Literature Summer Reading 2020

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The books listed below are modern fiction selections, all appropriate for AP Literature. Choose and read one of these books before school starts. You may read a hard copy or a digital copy, whichever you prefer. Please remember, many of you are moving from the argument of rhetoric to the argument of literature--you've done this before, but you have to shift gears in your brain as you enter a literature classroom. Everything we read in AP Lit is imaginative literature.

Choose one book to read, or read as many as you desire. These are all high interest novels perfectly acceptable to use on the AP Lit exam in May 2021--I have enjoyed all of them. I think these months of quarantine show us just how connected we all are--as human beings, as global citizens, as family members, as children to our parents, and as siblings. All of the protagonists, each from a different culture in these stories, deal with these same issues. Perhaps as you read, you will realize that we are not all that different. The human story is the same--beautiful, sad, poignant, life-giving. As you read, consider how you can connect your book to other works that you have read and situations you have encountered.

Choices:

- A. *Where the Crawdads Sing*--Delia Owens
- B. *All the Light We Cannot See*--Anthony Doer
- C. *Purple Hibiscus*--Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- D. *The Namesake*--Jhumpa Lahiri

When school starts in the fall, the first books we will read--outside of class--are *How to Read Literature Like a Professor--Revised Edition* by Thomas C. Foster and *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (yes, you may use your old annotated copy if you read it in junior high). You are not required to read these over the summer, but if you have time, you may get started, especially with *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. This book will help you begin your study of literature and will help you to “see” what you need to see for analysis.

Other first semester books include *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison--note, this is **not** *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells. You will be required to have hard copies of all of these books (I can help if you need assistance with this). Used books are fine.

There are many ways to access free books online. See the list below for some available resources to help you gain access to books:

Apps found in the CISD SSO Portal:

- **Sora**
 - Free access to a variety of e-books and audiobooks
- **Destiny Discover**
 - Check out e-books and audiobooks from your campus library (Use your SSO username and login and choose TWCP.)

Other websites with free resources:

- **Montgomery County Public Library**
 - E-Books & Audiobooks: <https://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/elibrary>
 - Get a Digital Library Card:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/registration.html>
- **Open Library**
 - Create a free account: <https://openlibrary.org/account/create>
 - Popular Titles: <https://bit.ly/2XBewyP>
- **Project Gutenberg**
 - Free E-Books: http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
 - Top 100 Most Popular: <http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/scores/top>
- **Audible Stories**
 - Free Audiobooks: <https://stories.audible.com/>

I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Have a great summer.

Mrs. Waters
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Keep scrolling below for the College Portfolio assignment due in September....

College Portfolio Assignment 2020
English IV Ap Literature and Composition
Mrs. Waters

Please note: these are crazy times, obviously, and some of this information could change as colleges replan their openings and their courses of study. I am posting this assignment with summer work so that you can begin to think about it and to work on it. I will work with you when school starts to get the most updated information possible. Right now, all you can do to get yourself ready for your application. Counselors will come into senior English classrooms at the beginning of the year to go over this information with you. You are NOT on your own--many of us will be there to help you when school begins.

College Portfolio will be due sometime around Monday, Sept. 14 at the beginning of your class period. Your project must be submitted in a soft 3 ring binder. Do NOT use a larger binder. Points will be deducted if you do not follow these directions.

College Admissions Portfolio--Most colleges open the application process on 8-1-20; some, like A&M open earlier this year. Check your college website.

Compile a College Admissions Portfolio by choosing colleges or universities you wish to attend. You may complete the portfolio around one college or you may mix up the colleges. Do what makes the application process easier for you. While all elements below are required, this is your journey and you can tailor it to fit your application process needs. The process is lengthy and full of tensions and hard work, but it is one that college students must embrace. You will benefit from doing a good job on this assignment. **Be sure to go to your Naviance account and review colleges and admissions requirements. This is a great tool, use it. Save all of your work--I suggest Google Docs. You don't know when you will need it again.**

Your portfolio will be neatly organized in a **soft 3 ring binder, tabbed** according to the sections below. Follow MLA format for any typed information. The expectation is that the portfolio will be complete for all practical purposes when you come to school on the first day of class so that you may ask any questions you might have. Don't procrastinate as your first weeks of senior year will be busy. This process takes longer than you think; but I assure you, it is worthwhile. You will need your parents' help for some of the information, so don't wait until the last minute.

****You must have a cover sheet in the front of your College Portfolio binder. Include your name and your class period.**

I. APPLICATION: You may use a screenshot or print a copy of the page that shows all areas of the application checked as complete. IF you don't submit the checklist page, your application should be typed and a copy placed in your portfolio. If you cannot fill out the application online and then print it out, then print out a blank standard submission form and complete it in ink. You do **not** have to include a letter of recommendation; however, **you should include** a list of potential references. For this project, you may blackout or omit income or personal information like social security numbers.

II. RESUME: A resume is required. Pay close attention to your design and presentation. This is an important item as it will come in VERY handy when you begin applying for scholarships in the spring. List awards, activities, recognitions, and honors you have received in high school. This is not a job resume so it can be longer than one page, but four pages is too long. You want to give prospective colleges and teachers, whom you ask to write recommendations, a clear picture of your high school career. Google high school resumes and find a format that you like. **You should include your class rank/number of students in class and your SAT/ACT score(s) if you have them.**

III. SCHOOLS TO WHICH I AM APPLYING (You will hear a counselor presentation to explain this in more detail during the first week of school): Create a list of schools to which to apply based on the parameters of:

- a. **Likely schools**--A likely school is a college or university where you are GUARANTEED admission, either through automatic academic admission or because the school is an open enrollment school (2 year college). If the school does not offer automatic admission, it cannot be considered a likely school. This school should still meet the academic, social and emotional needs of the student.
- b. **Target schools**--A target school is a college or university where your academic profile and achievements give you a better than 50% chance of admission. These schools either don't offer automatic admission or your academic profile does not guarantee you admission, but the acceptance rate of the school is higher than 50%. It is imperative that you research the college or university's academic profile/incoming freshman class to determine whether or not your academic record fits within the acceptable range. Be aware that you can be denied from a target school even if you fit their academic profile. This group of schools you might be admissible to, but you might not gain admission.
- c. **Reach schools**--A reach school is a college or university that is either considered highly selective or your academic/achievement record is well outside the automatic admission category.

These are either schools that admit very few students or are public schools with very set admissions standards. Colleges who accept less than 30% of their applicants should be considered highly selective. The University of Texas is highly selective outside of the top 7%. Texas A&M University is highly selective outside of their published automatic admissions standards. This group of schools you might be admissible to, but you might not gain admission.

Students applying to a variety of schools should keep in mind that balance is key. College lists should not have 1 likely school, 1 target school and 8 reach schools. Students should err on the side of caution and spend more time researching and determining what their Likely and Target schools truly are.

Explain why these schools are in each category. Think about your GPA, your test scores, your financial means. You should strive for a 2-3-2 balance. You do not want to be too "reach" heavy as you could very easily be disappointed in April. This is a very important step, take it seriously! Look at the stats for a college and be realistic with your odds.

IV. COLLEGE CAMPUS OVERVIEW: Choose one of the schools from the list above and create a College Campus Overview. You should use graphics/pictures in this section. **Be sure I can tell to what college you are applying on the first page of your overview.** Have fun and be creative with this section. Your overview will include a bulleted list with an explanation of the following:

- the requirements for admission,
- the population of the student body,
- the possibilities for admission (is this a reach, target, or likely school?),
- average test scores,
- information regarding accepted AP credits,
- the campus setting,
- campus life,
- any other interesting facts,
- a field of concentration, in which you might be interested in pursuing. Print out a sample curriculum for freshman year.
- several graphics or pictures of the campus

V. FAFSA4caster: Look here for the [FAFSA4caster](#). This process takes about 15 minutes to complete. Filing a FAFSA does not mean you NEED student aid; rather, many colleges require it to receive ANY aid. You need to know your EFC, expected family contribution (remember, this is just a prediction), in order to understand how much money you will be paying toward your college. Many universities look at the FAFSA to determine any reduction in tuition you will receive. Like it or not, money will affect your final college decision. It is true that good grades

and good test scores will help you to earn money; but remember, that does not mean that your dream schools (like Rice, or Harvard, or Stanford) will give you money. There are many colleges that will give you money—lots of money—but, that college might not be your “dream” college. Play around with your colleges on the form. Be sure to include some institutions that are affordable for your family. You do not need to disclose any personal information to me. Copy one of the following statement(s) and include it in your portfolio with your signature and the signature of your parent or guardian.

1. We completed the FAFSA4caster and understand our preliminary EFC (expected family contribution).
2. We are not eligible to complete the FAFSA4caster due to citizenship status.
3. We choose not to fill out the FAFSA4caster and understand the implications of not doing so.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

VI. ONE PAGE REFLECTIVE SUMMARY: discuss your chances of getting into the school and what you will do to accomplish this goal. Why do you want to attend this school? Why do you see yourself at this school? This is a **personal reflection** and should be at least a page, MLA format.

VII. ADMISSIONS ESSAY: Two college admissions essays. Essays will be submitted separately into Canvas. Type your essays on a Google Doc and you will be ready to submit at a later date. These essays should be in MLA format--double spaced. Write TWO college essays that you can use this fall--choose any two of the essays that are required by the college to which you are applying. Again, one will be submitted with your portfolio; one will be graded more closely by me. You may submit short answer questions in lieu of a full length essay. Essays should follow the guidelines and word requirements set by the college. You may substitute several short answer essays for one longer one. Type your essay prompt at the top of your paper. **We will work on these in class most of the first quarter. Do not despair as I will lead you through them, but get your head in the game.**

Common App solution center

<https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/article/What-are-the-2020-2021-Common-Application-essay-prompts>

Common App blog

<https://www.commonapp.org/blog/common-app-2020-2021-essay-prompts>

Common App essay questions for 2020-21 are the same as 2019-20

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>

Apply Texas essay prompts 2020

https://admin.applytexas.org/at-security/essay_prompts_2020.pdf

Apply Texas application

https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

Coalition Application

<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

Coalition essay prompts

<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays>