**AP Literature 2019 Summer Reading**

The focus for summer reading for incoming AP literature students is for students to choose a developed work of literature from the list below and read the book slowly and carefully with attention to detail. A student will, most likely, need to read the book over about (3 – 4) weeks. When students begin AP Literature in September, the class will complete one group activity that has participatory/presentation elements. The second initiative will involve writing. To prepare for the second assessment, students should consider the major and minor themes of the novel they choose.

All of the selections are available through various sources: bookstores, electronically, the North library, and through the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system. However, it is important that in September, students have access to the book they choose to read.

The descriptions below indicate which selections reflect subjects of a mature nature (sexuality, violence, harsh language). As the selections below range in subject matter, recommended College Board texts reflect a similarly broad span. The original date of publication provided below may help with making your selection.

Although I do not check WITS mail every day during the summer, I do check it periodically, so you can send an email with any questions you may have to JGoergen@williamsvillek12.org.

Additionally, I encourage students to read books of their choosing throughout the summer. The students who are most successful in the course are readers!

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**Tess of the d’urbervilles (1891)** by Thomas Hardy

Set in the countryside of late 19th century England, the novel leads readers to contemplate whether a chance event can lead to greater issues as Tess leads a life marked by fleeting happiness and more permanent struggles.

**An American Tragedy (1926)** by Theodore Dreiser

This work of fiction is actually based upon a New York State legal matter of the early 20th century. When Clyde Griffiths attempts to move as far away as possible from the lifestyle of his poor family, he comes to New York State to work for his uncle who owns a thriving shirt collar factory. Enthralled by his associations with the upper class, Griffiths commits a crime against his working class girlfriend and must live out the consequences.

**The Stone Diaries (1993)** by Carol Shields

The circumstances of Daisy Goodwill Flett’s birth are unusual in this 1993 Pulitzer Prize winning novel that spans generations. As Carol Shields shapes the narrative in ways that capture large amounts of time as well as changes in setting, she crafts a novel that is other characters’ stories as well.
Wuthering Heights (1847) by Emily Bronte

In this gothic novel, Bronte traces Heathcliff’s development from his adoption by the Earnshaws and how his thwarted love for Catherine Earnshaw leads to the vengeful decisions that ultimately shape his life. When reading this novel, students need to keep careful track of the narrator, time period shifts, and the generations of the characters.

Flight Behavior (2012) by Barbara Kingsolver

Set among family members who must reconcile events of the past in order to address issues in the present, the novel raises important environmental issues for the reader to contemplate.

The Poisonwood Bible (1998) by Barbara Kingsolver

The Prices move to the Congo to complete missionary work, but their father’s motives soon become questionable. Kingsolver narrates the novel from the perspective of multiple characters whose voices reveal the social and political issues of the Congo.

Adam Bede (1859) by George Eliot

The College Board loves the English novel. As students read this novel, they come to understand the structure of the English village. The novel reflects social criticism as the orphan Hetty Sorrel dares to consider a future with the squire’s son, Arthur Donnithorne, and she must experience the consequences of their affair. Students should carefully look at the edition of the book they obtain as there is a fair amount of dialect in the novel since the characters reflect a range of the social classes of people who lived in an English village.

The Underground Railroad (2016) by Colson Whitehead

This novel offers new perspectives on the Underground Railroad. As Cora escapes slavery, she experiences moments of freedom, but then must experience additional hardships of being an escaped slave until she reaches complete freedom.

Persuasion (1817) by Jane Austen

Although many consider Elizabeth Bennet of Pride and Prejudice one of Jane Austen’s great heroines, Anne Elliot may be her greatest heroine. Anne’s life is at the will of others until she is able to take control of social forces within her society to ultimately achieve happiness.

Remains of the Day (1989) by Kazuo Ishiguro

This novel may be Ishiguro’s best known work. While the narrator reflects upon his unquestioning dedication to his life of service, he sees that his loyalty may have been misplaced as his life circumstances also reflect the conflict between traditional ways and the modern world.