

A.P. English Mrs. McConochy
Summer Reading List

General Recommendations for Summer Reading

Number One: Read. Read daily. Read challenging material. Read things you don't want to read and figure out their meaning. Never once look at Sparknotes or a similar source. Exercise your mind. Keep a list of unfamiliar vocabulary and their definitions or make flash cards of the same. Being a strong reader is the greatest indicator of success on the A.P. exam.

Number Two: The following texts will be studied at some point during your senior year. **I advise that you read *Wuthering Heights* over the summer. You may check this out from the library. Also, please read Willa Cather's *My Antonia* which you will have to purchase.**

Number Three: Read a poem a day; some you'll like, and some you won't. Read from a variety of poets and sources and from a range of difficulty. A relative's former college textbook would be a good place to start. **Collect 6 of these. Choose one and write a one page analysis of the poem. Questions for consideration:** What is the tone? Is there a shift in tone? How does the poet create meaning? In other words, how does he/she contribute to tone through his/her use of imagery, diction (word choice), figurative language (personification, simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia), musical devices (alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhyme, and rhyme scheme), and structure (lines and stanzas)? Finally, what is it about the poem that speaks to you? **Bring the poems and your analysis to class on your first day.**

Number Four: We'll begin the year by discussing the summer reading and taking an essay test on the two works you have read. However, your first out-of-class writing assignment will be the college application essay; so, **secure a topic that will be appropriate for you to use and bring this to class on your first day.** Bear in mind that the year's most difficult units—those of prosody and style (which includes an intensive grammar section)—will occur within the first three marking periods.

Looking forward to meeting you in September,
Mrs. McConochy