

A.P. English Literature and Composition

An Overview
by Diana McGrath, teacher

Characteristics and Pre-Requisites of A.P. English Literature Students:

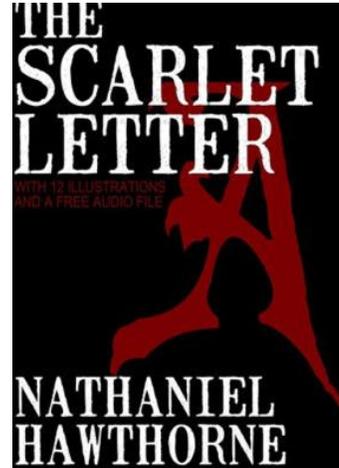
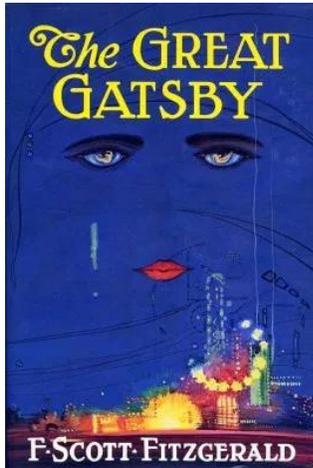
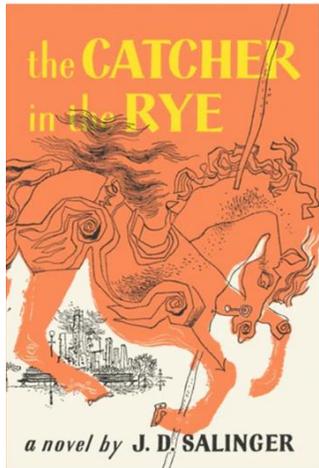
- 1) **Show extraordinary talent and ability in prior English classes. They have a special mastery and understanding of language.**
- 2) **Prioritize the work and learning experience, rather than the grade/G.P.A.**
- 3) **Possess academic zeal—an independent yearning to learn, read, and make connections to current events/the world.**
- 4) **Tend to have a mature personality and strong leadership qualities. These students want to discuss and write about their ideas.**
- 5) **Exhibit high-level critical analysis and comprehension skills.**
- 6) **Show creative and innovative thinking through their writing ability and projects.**

Course Content

We will read:

7 Novels, including some or all of the following:

- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *On Walden Pond* by Henry David Thoreau
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien



2 Plays, chosen from the following:

- *The Crucible* or *Death of a Salesman*
- *A Streetcar Named Desire*

General Course Information

- The majority of your grade EACH semester is based on writing and tests
- Scoring of writing is based on College Board's 6-Point Analytic Rubric
- Course content and syllabus are College Board approved



Skills Assessed on A.P. Literature Exam

Six Big Ideas Explored through Poetry, Drama, Short Fiction, and Long Fiction:

- 1. Character*
- 2. Setting*
- 3. Structure*
- 4. Narration*
- 5. Figurative Language*
- 6. Literary Argumentation*



Exam Overview



Total Testing Session is 3 Hours



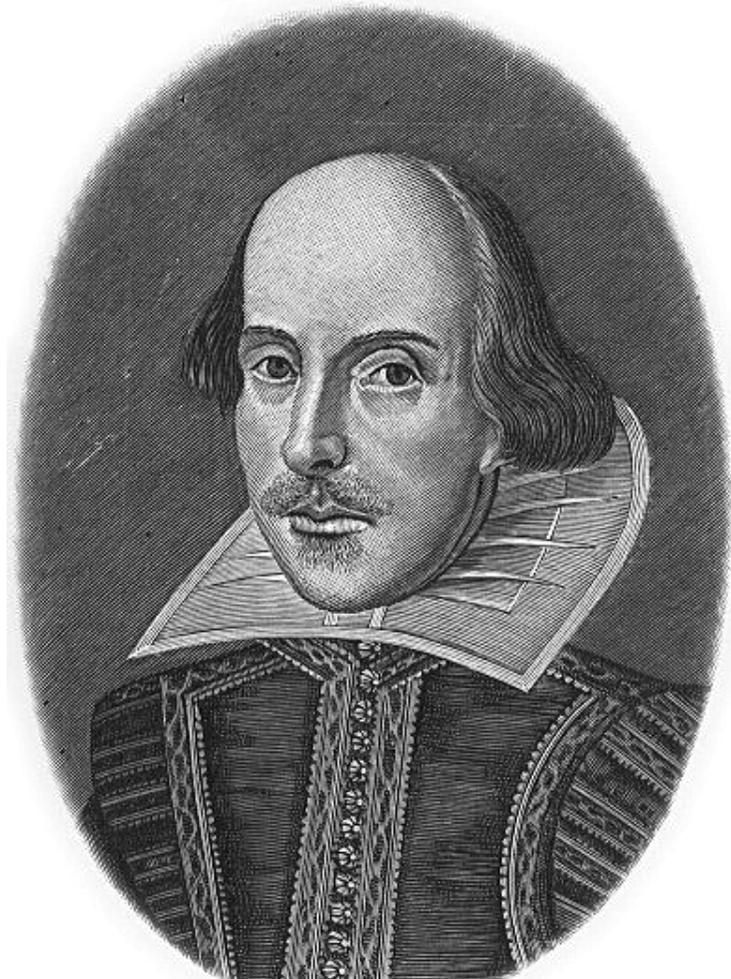
- 60 Minute Multiple Choice section—
55 Questions
- 120 Minute Essay Section—3 Essays
(40 minutes each)
 - Question 1 (Q1): Poetry Analysis
 - Question 2 (Q2): Prose Fiction Analysis
 - Question 3 (Q3): Literary Argument

How is A.P. Literature different from A.P. Language?

- The language course (12th grade) uses nonfiction texts exclusively, and focuses on rhetorical analysis and the development of analytic and argumentative writing, while
- The literature class (11th grade) focuses on literary analysis of fiction.



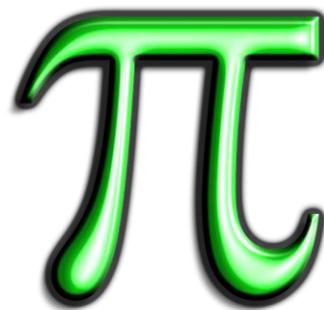
Reasons to take the class



- You are a strong writer and enjoy literary analysis.
- You are a strong reader and want to be challenged.
- You like talking about literary works and characters.
- You find yourself critiquing films, books, and writing.
- You want to get a head start on college-level curriculum because your skills are above others in your same grade level.
- When you get home, English assignments are the first on your list because you have a great interest in literature and poetry.
- You naturally read and write on your own without being coerced by your teachers or parents.

Reasons you should not take the class

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + x_2 = 7 \\ x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 = -10 \\ 6x_2 - 2x_3 + x_4 = 7 \\ 2x_3 - 3x_4 = 13 \end{cases}$$



- You are not interested in a class that revolves around preparing for a test. You do not plan to take the A.P. Literature test.
- You just want the extra course credit.
- Your parents want you to take A.P. Literature but you are more interested in other subjects.
- English class has always been your least favorite class and you struggle in the subject.
- You do not really like reading or writing.
- You do not have the time to meet the demands of a rigorous class among your other A.P. classes.

