

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition: Summer Reading 2020

The War Story: A Journey of Imagination and Resilience

“You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive.” James Baldwin

You will be reading two short stories and a contemporary work of fiction exploring the subject of war and emerging themes of resilience, survival and imagination. Ernest Hemingway’s short stories will serve as an introduction to the subject of war. Kevin Powers’ *The Yellow Bird* was a 2013 Dayton Literary Peace Prize finalist for fiction. Your reading focus will include the defining characteristics of the authors’ style with the main focus being character development.

Short Stories:

[“A Soldier’s Home”](#) Ernest Hemingway

[“In Another Country”](#) Ernest Hemingway

Selected Texts:

[The Yellow Birds Kevin Powers](#) ISBN: 978-0-316-21934-1

You will need these stories and books for the first quarter. I encourage you to purchase *The Yellow Birds* so you are able to annotate the book as you read. You may obtain the book from the library but I expect you to have it for the first two weeks of class and you will use the stories and books for the first quarter major paper. You may want to write notes at the top of the pages making observations about the author’s style or also underline memorable passages. I also encourage you to print the stories as well. If you do not have access to a printer, send me an email and I will print the stories for you and mail them to your house.

The goal for reading this summer is to formulate our own and collective impressions of the works in order to critically engage with the books in the first weeks of class. Annotating while you read will be helpful for the online discussion and the in-class analysis on the **second** day of class. Throughout the year, you will learn more strategies on how to annotate a text and most importantly recognize the benefits of annotating a work of literature.

On-Line Discussion- 20 points

You will be required to post a **minimum** of two postings for each question/topic. Regardless of when you post, it is important you are aware of the full discussion so you can participate in class discussion the first day of school and be prepared for the first in-class essay. **The topic of the in class essay will connect to the discussion.** Questions for the discussion will be posted a day before the scheduled discussion. If you will not have access to a computer during the scheduled discussions, you may post your responses late but you **must** email me in advance. Please review the [rubric](#) to understand how the discussion will be assessed.

Please access the on-line discussion via C-J’s webpage/Library Media Center Research Databases/Turnitin.com. Please register for the class no later than May 22 so I can make sure everyone successfully registered.

Guidelines for registering to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com)

- 1) The class ID is: **24858937** The class enrollment password is: sunflower
- 2) Click on “AP English Literature and Composition 2020-21”.
- 3) Click on the grey “discussion” tab.

Hemingway Short Stories: July 8-10

The Yellow Birds Powers: July 29-31

In-Class Analysis- 40 points

On the second day of class, you will have your first in-class writing analysis of the year which will be inspired from the on-line discussions. This will be worth 40 points. You should be prepared for the analysis by frequently reading the postings and being aware of themes emerging during the postings and through the works themselves.

Listed below are some internet sites which provide biographical information on the authors and other supplementary material. The primary goal of our summer reading and discussions will be to explore the books together. The short stories and online material often provide discussion questions. I will not necessarily use these questions for the on-line discussion but you may want to explore them on your own to help you focus on key themes as well as plot and character developments.

Kevin Powers

<http://kevinpowers.com/work/the-yellow-birds/>

Ernest Hemingway

<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/spring/hemingway.html>