

AP English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading

2022-2023

Students in AP Literature and Composition are required to read the following two books this summer:

Invisible Man by Ellison

Great Expectations by Dickens

Each of these books covers the protagonist's life chronologically. As you read, keep notes as to the events of the protagonist, the characters, themes, and symbols.

After you have read each book, please respond to the prompts below. You may email them to Mrs. Hampton (pdhampton@gcagators.org) before or on the first day of school. These prompts have been chosen from actual AP Literature and Composition exams.

Prompt for *Invisible Man*

In his 2004 novel *Magic Seeds*, V. S. Naipaul writes: “It is wrong to have an ideal view of the world. That’s where the mischief starts. That’s where everything starts unravelling.”

Select a character who holds an “ideal view of the world.” Then write an essay in which you analyze the character’s idealism and its positive or negative consequences. Explain how the author’s portrayal of this idealism illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole

Prompt for *Great Expectations*

Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is also a burden or a handicap.

Select a character whose gift has been both an advantage and a problem. Then write a well-developed, well-organized essay in which you analyze the complex nature of the gift and how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.