

May 2022

Dear AP English Literature and Composition Student,

Welcome to AP Lit! I am excited to have you in my class next school year. In order to prepare for our first piece of long fiction, you have a reading for the summer. Please complete this reading and corresponding work prior to Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

The novel selected for this summer is:

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini*

Please read and annotate.

Regarding annotation, please do it as best you know how. Rest assured that we will discuss, at length, how to annotate during the course. **Annotation is your thoughts about the text WRITTEN ON THE TEXT.** I cannot exaggerate enough the importance of interacting with the texts you read. For now, stick these simple rules:

1. Write on the book using pen or pencil; *if you do not own the copy, use post-it notes.*
2. Look for significant imagery, diction, or metaphors, then ask: what do they do for the protagonist/antagonist/stock character/situation/issue? Why did the author choose to write the scene with that image, that word, or that metaphor?
3. Especially look for any of the above that you see repeated, and ask yourself: is it (the image, word, metaphor) used in the same way as it was before? If yes, why? If no, then, how it being used now? Why did the author make this change?)

Second, you will need to complete a dialectical journal. A dialectic journal is an opportunity for you to reflect and comment on portions or passages that are important to you throughout the novel. You will need to complete this by the time school begins in August.

Please bring your annotated novels and dialectical journal to class on Tuesday, August 16. Do not be afraid to be **WRONG**. Yes, wrong. There is very little that you can do wrong in an annotation or journaling, **except not annotating or journaling**. Your grade is based upon your willingness to try, to be "out there," to think non-linearly. Go beyond your comfort zone. This course will be exposing you to materials that are fresh, adult, and challenging -- be brave, be fearless.

Sincerely,
Ms. Valencia

Please see the statement below from College Board. Some of the texts we will be reading this year, including *The Kite Runner*, are adult in nature and therefore include scenes that students may find surprising, unexpected, or disturbing. Such is the effect of literature – we examine humanity at its best and at its worst through the story the author tells and the complex characters they include.

What AP Stands For	
1.	AP stands for clarity and transparency. Teachers and students deserve clear expectations. The Advanced Placement Program makes public its course frameworks and sample assessments. Confusion about what's permitted in the classroom disrupts teachers and students as they navigate demanding work.
2.	AP is an unflinching encounter with evidence. AP courses enable students to develop as independent thinkers and to draw their own conclusions. Evidence and the scientific method are the starting point for conversations in AP courses.
3.	AP opposes censorship. AP is animated by a deep respect for the intellectual freedom of teachers and students alike. If a school bans required topics from their AP courses, the AP Program removes the AP designation from that course and its inclusion in the AP Course Ledger provided to colleges and universities. For example, the concepts of evolution are at the heart of college biology, and a course that neglects such concepts doesn't pass muster as AP Biology.
4.	AP opposes indoctrination. AP students are expected to analyze different perspectives from their own frame of reference, and no points on an AP Exam are awarded for agreement with a viewpoint. AP students aren't required to feel certain ways about themselves or the course content. AP courses instead develop students' abilities to assess the credibility of sources, draw conclusions, and make up their own minds. As the AP English Literature course description states: "AP students are not expected or asked to subscribe to any one specific set of cultural or political values, but are expected to have the maturity to analyze perspectives different from their own and to question the meaning, purpose, or effect of such content within the literary work as a whole."
5.	AP courses foster an open-minded approach to the histories and cultures of different peoples. The study of different nationalities, cultures, religions, races, and ethnicities is essential within a variety of academic disciplines. AP courses ground such studies in primary sources so that students can evaluate experiences and evidence for themselves.
6.	Every AP student who engages with evidence is listened to and respected. Students are encouraged to evaluate arguments but not one another. AP classrooms respect diversity in backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. The perspectives and contributions of the full range of AP students are sought and considered. Respectful debate of ideas is cultivated and protected; personal attacks have no place in AP.
7.	AP is a choice for parents and students. Parents and students freely choose to enroll in AP courses. Course descriptions are available online for parents and students to inform their choice. Parents don't define which college-level topics

	are suitable within AP courses; AP course and exam materials are crafted by committees of professors and other expert educators in each field. AP courses and exams are then further validated by the American Council on Education and studies that confirm the use of AP scores for college credits by thousands of colleges and universities nationwide.
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Sincerely, The Advanced Placement Program
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AP Dialectical Journal

Read and annotate *Kite Runner* and choose 10 portions of the novel to analyze. Do **NOT** choose a quote that is on the Internet. I suggest you actually check Spark Notes, eNotes, Quizlet, and other common sites because if you choose one of the passages from these sites, your response will not be valid. Download this document and complete it. You will be uploading it to Canvas and it will be reviewed by Turn It In.

Quotation	Page #	Response: Respond, Analyze, Evaluate
(What are you analyzing?) (page #)		<p>Respond: What did you, the reader, like or dislike about the passage? Why were you drawn to it? What was the emotional response you had to the words? Was this intentional?</p> <p>Analyze: Why was this quote placed in the chapter, at this point? How is it purposeful by the author?</p> <p>Evaluate: How does the quote extend beyond the text? Does it address a world value, moral, problem...universal theme? Why is this quote important?</p>

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