

## AP English Summer Reading/Assignments – 2018

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*The Odyssey* by Homer

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

All assignments due the first day of class. Use pen and cursive writing if not typing out responses.

For *The Odyssey*:

A study guide is attached. The study guide is an aid to keeping the various adventures of the main character straight. Besides descriptions, be sure to provide “what happened” details with the various adventures.

Answer the following in approx. one half to one page typed (double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman) or a single sheet of paper with the written word on both sides for each response.

1. What have the constant references to Menelaus (married to Helen of Troy) to do with Odysseus? Identify either specific comparisons or contrasts or both.
2. Do the same with the constant references to Agamemnon (married to Clytaemnestra).
3. Why might a reader draw the conclusion that Penelope was complicit in the closing violence? Show evidence of her involvement.
4. Show why it's easy to draw the conclusion that Odysseus' goal was NOT to reach home.

For *Hamlet*:

Address the attached “close reading” assignment as well as the following questions. Same presentation requirements as above.

1. Show specific references that indicate Gertrude may have been complicit in the murder of her first husband, Hamlet's father.
2. Hamlet eventually achieves his goal, but at what cost?
3. This has often been called the “delaying play” by Shakespearean scholars. Explain how and why this is an accurate moniker.

For *Wuthering Heights*:

A family tree attached. Same requirements as identified above:

1. This is often referred to as one of the greatest love stories ever written. With only the first half of the novel involving the lovers, determine what the second half has to offer or contribute that would lend itself to this assessment. Show the second half as integral to the novel and love story as a whole.
2. Explore the era in which this book was written and in which it's set. What was Catherine up against when she married Edgar as opposed to her love? Why exactly did she marry Edgar? Don't speculate. Provide proof.
3. Nellie stated, “Proud people breed sad sorrows for themselves”. What was the original context and how was this prescient for Catherine? Heathcliff? Young Cathy? Anyone else?

For *A Tale of Two Cities*:

1. (Same requirements) Dickens' goal when composing the story was capturing the personal in a huge historical event. How does he do this? Was it done to satisfaction for the reader? Was the personal felt as we entered the accurate and violent tumult that was the French Revolution? Specify with numerous textual references for support.
2. It has been said the novel captured the condemnation of innocents (people here, not "innocence") quite accurately. Show this to be so with 10 specific examples.