

Spring 2023

To: Parents of Gifted and Talented Academy Seniors
Re: Summer Reading Program

I look forward to working with the students and embarking on our study of humanities. The course seeks to draw together from many different times and places the universal themes and experiences that remain relevant today. The course will continue preparation to receive college credit through Advanced Placement testing. As in past years, the coursework is substantial, rarely allowing class time for “reading.” The curriculum will focus on several major pieces of literature with shorter pieces and corresponding selections of other areas of the arts to complete the unit study. Each unit will feature an independent exploration by the student into further related material.

The summer reading program asks the student to read certain major works in advance, at a more leisurely pace, to be prepared for discussion in class at the beginning of school. The selection below introduces important themes and concepts, along with a taste of different cultures. The selected title will be read by everyone, the third text is a technical guide to the study of literature.

The selected novel is Ahrundati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* which will be discussed during the first two weeks of school. The enclosed assignment **must be typed** and will be due **the FIRST day of class in August**.

The technical guide students must read excerpts from is *The Art of Fiction*, by David Lodge. Students will utilize this text to assist in analysis and reading of the novel as well as other works of literature as we progress through the year.

Copies of these books may be found in local libraries or purchased. Barnes and Noble has copies of the novels readily available; inquire about student discounts. There may also be discount copies available on Amazon.com, Powells.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Alibris.com and many other bookselling websites. Sometimes used copies are sold for as little as two or three dollars on these sites.

Questions about the program or the year’s curriculum are welcome; you can reach me through email. Summer assignments will be available on the Academy website at www.ehsgiftedacademy.weebly.com should you need a replacement copy over the summer.

Cordially,

Cristina Cabrera
English Teacher
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The Art of Fiction

Summer Reading Assignment

Students are to read the following chapters in *The Art of Fiction*:

Chapter 6 - Point of View

Chapter 8-10 - Names, Stream of Consciousness, Interior Monologue

Chapters 12, 14, 16 & 19 - Sense of Place, Introducing Character, Time Shift, Repetition

Chapter 21 and 24 - Intertextuality and Magical Realism

Chapters 26 - Showing and Telling

Chapters 30-34 -Symbolism, Allegory, Epiphany, Coincidence, The Unreliable Narrator

Chapters 39, 43, 44 - Irony, The Title, Ideas

Chapters 48-50 - Narrative Structure, Aporia, The Ending

The text was originally written as short newspaper articles regarding literature and has been compiled into book form. As a result of this format, the chapters are short, easily digestible and breakdown literature in a way that is approachable while still providing a window into the art of literary criticism that is central to our study of literature senior year.

See the assignment example for clarification.

Students are to read the information provided in Lodge's articles. You are to turn in a document that mimics the chart below and demonstrates your newfound understanding - the final document must contain references to all chapters required from *The Art of Fiction* (there will be 22 rows in all). Your assignment **MUST** be **typed in 12 point Times New Roman**. No exceptions. **If your assignment is not typed, it will not be graded.**

Main idea presented in each chapter in <i>The Art of Fiction</i>	Your newfound understanding of the identified element of literature
Jane Austen's opening is classical: lucid, measured, objective, with ironic implication concealed beneath the elegant velvet glove of the style (Lodge 5).	The way that an opening is easily read and forgotten is interesting. It reminds me that there are beginnings to the novels I read which I often completely forget, but without the opening as given by the author, the entire story would develop and evolve differently. The beginning of novels I gravitate toward tend to be subtle, set a clear tone for the first chapter and leave me wanting to read further for more information. The craft behind this is often overlooked and under-analyzed.

NB: consider the type of comment in this example; it demonstrates a depth of thought and engagement with the text. If your annotations do not do something similar, there is no way to receive full credit for this assignment.

ALSO: You will be required to submit this assignment to Canvas in the first week of class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

The God of Small Things Summer Reading Assignment

You will need to respond to one Global Issue. You must include a clear, short outline of your essay. It must also include a Works Cited and Consulted that lists the text used as well as any other texts researched for this essay. The essay developed out of the outline will be a classic essay with an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and a formal conclusion. There is a word limit of 800-1,000 words. MLA formatting must be followed for all elements of the assignment (outline, essay, works cited and consulted). If you need help with MLA formatting, you must consult Purdue OWL for correct formatting. All MLA formatting will be given a summative score in the language strand for all assignments this year.

Global Issues - choose one to respond to for the assignment - you must address all parts of the bulleted elements in your response.

Culture, Identity and Community

- How does this text explore aspects of family, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, or sexuality?
- How do those (family, class, race, etc.) impact individuals and societies?

Beliefs, Values and Education

- How does this text explore the beliefs and values in a particular society?
- How do those beliefs and values shape individuals, communities and educational systems?
- What happens if tensions arise due to conflicts of beliefs, values, and ethics?

Politics, Power and Justice

- How does this text explore rights and responsibilities?
- How does this text explore the workings and structures of governments and institutions?
- How does this text represent power, the distribution of wealth and resources, the limits of justice and the law, equality and inequality, human rights and peace and conflict?

Art, Creativity and The Imagination

- How does this text explore aesthetic inspiration, creation, craft, and beauty?
- How does this text shape and challenge perceptions through art?
- How does this text show the function, value and effects of art in society?

Science, Technology and The Environment

- How does this text explore the relationship between humans and the environment?
- How does this text explore the implications of technology and media for society?
- How does this text consider the idea of scientific development and progress?