

**2024 Summer Reading Assignment**  
 William & Reed Academy  
 AP English Literature & Composition



Dear Students,

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! I hope you are as excited as I am to embark on this adventure! This year you will engage in an exciting curriculum, one filled with challenging literary texts and writing assignments, all of which will assist you in preparing for college courses in English and composition. To begin, I created a summer reading assignment that will help to prepare you for the class and introduce the concepts I will cover this year.

**Tasks**

**Parts 1 and 2 are due on the first day of school.** The specific requirements for each are described below:

<b>Part 1</b>	Critically read and annotate a Pulitzer winner or finalist from this <a href="#">list</a> .
<b>Part 2</b>	Draft a "ghost chapter" for the novel <b>OR</b> analyze it in <b>two</b> 12-sentence paragraphs.

Critical Reading	Questions to Consider
<p>A critical reader asks deep, thought-provoking questions.</p> <p>A critical reader appreciates and seeks complexity.</p> <p>A critical reader uses evidence to reach logical conclusions.</p> <p>A critical reader establishes connections across texts.</p> <p>A critical reader recognizes errors in thought and persuasion.</p> <p>A critical reader is open to alternative viewpoints.</p> <p>A critical reader reflects and reevaluates.</p> <p>A critical reader interprets texts dispassionately, free of bias.</p>	<p><i>What is the author's purpose for writing?</i></p> <p><i>What connections exist between the author and the novel?</i></p> <p><i>What is the author's writing style? What makes it identifiable?</i></p> <p><i>Who is the intended audience?</i></p> <p><i>What content or stylistic elements cater to the intended audience?</i></p> <p><i>Where and in what time is the story set?</i></p> <p><i>How is the setting described? What tone is conveyed, and by whom?</i></p> <p><i>How is the novel structured?</i></p> <p><i>From what vantage point is the story told?</i></p> <p><i>How does vantage point shape the reading experience?</i></p> <p><i>Who narrates the story? What is his or her connection to the plot?</i></p> <p><i>How do the characters interact? What relationships exist?</i></p> <p><i>How believable are the characters? What makes them so?</i></p> <p><i>What motivations drive the characters?</i></p> <p><i>What major shifts occur in the plot?</i></p> <p><i>What literary devices are employed? How are they used, and why?</i></p> <p><i>What symbols emerge in the story? What makes them significant?</i></p> <p><i>How does the title of the novel relate to its plot?</i></p> <p><i>What themes recur throughout the novel?</i></p> <p><i>What loose ends are left in the plot? Why are there loose ends?</i></p>

## W&R Annotations Rubric

The Pulitzer novel annotations are worth one Minor Assessments grade.

### Grade Range: A

The student **thoroughly** annotated the novel. He or she made consistent markings **throughout** the text. The student has

- written commentary;
- responded to lines, words, and/or phrases in the text;
- shared a personal connection or shared a connection to other texts;
- commented on the voice (*narration*) of the text;
- analyzed the author's motives;
- analyzed the structure of the text;
- asked questions about the author or text;
- wrestled with confusing aspects of or challenging words in the text; and/or
- made connections to BIG ideas

### Grade Range: B

The student **proficiently** annotated the text. He or she made consistent markings **throughout** the text. The student has

- written commentary;
- responded to lines, words, and/or phrases in the text;
- shared a personal connection or shared a connection to other texts;
- commented on the voice (*narration*) of the text;
- analyzed the author's motives;
- asked questions about the author or text;
- wrestled with confusing aspects of or challenging words in the text; and/or
- made connections to BIG ideas

### Grade Range: C

The student **somewhat** annotated the text. He or she made somewhat consistent markings **throughout** the text. The student has

- written commentary;
- responded to lines, words, and/or phrases in the text;
- shared a personal connection or shared a connection to other texts;
- commented on the voice (*narration*) of the text;
- analyzed the author's motives;
- analyzed the structure of the text;
- asked questions about the author or text;
- wrestled with confusing aspects of or challenging words in the text; and/or
- made connections to BIG ideas

### Grading Range: D-F

The student made **little to no effort** on his or her annotations.

## Part 2 -- Option 1: Ghost Chapter

A common piece of rhetorical grammar (i.e., stylistic punctuation) is the *ellipsis* (the omission of words or phrases from a sentence, leaving their meaning implied). Writers use ellipses within sentences, but imagine if the definition was applied to the scenes left out. There are many examples of this in Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*: one scene ends and another begins, though the reader can infer that action has occurred in between. Also, in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway, Jay Gatsby, Daisy Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, and Jordan Baker leave the Plaza Hotel in separate cars. Shortly after, tragedy strikes, but readers never read about it firsthand; they, instead, hear it later from Gatsby.

For this assignment, you will write a 500-word "ghost chapter" for your chosen Pulitzer novel, one that *could* have happened between

scenes. You may only use *existing* characters, and your portrayals must fit the storyline. Do not simply rewrite a portion of your chosen novel. For inspiration, here is an example from *The Great Gatsby*: The two men who witness Myrtle's death are Michaelis, who runs the coffee shop across from Wilson's garage, and the driver of the other car. Very little is mentioned about the accident, but a scene of dialogue between the two characters that could have taken place would be interesting.

Remain true to your chosen novel's plot, setting, and characters. Pay close attention to the use of punctuation, vernacular, dialogue, time-period-specific wording, and so on. Be creative but also respectful of the author's style. Your "ghost chapter" should be at least 500 words in length. Stay consistent with the novel's chapter format, but draft your own title. Include the page numbers where your chapter would be inserted. For example, "This chapter would appear on page XX." OR "This starts on page 132, immediately after 'The rising sun makes a pinhole on the horizon.'"

Your primary goal is to exhibit a strong understanding of the novel and the style of its author, as evidenced by your ability to infer implied action through established characters and the creation of your own story. It should go without saying that your chosen novel is your source; woe betide the student who relies on Spark Notes, Shmoop, or any related outside source. For this assignment, you will need to construct original details that mirror the actual details provided in the novel.

Below is a checklist of requirements to assist you. Your "ghost chapter" must:

- be at least 500 words in length and typed, using MLA format;
- creatively adhere to the author's style in content and format;
- specify where in your chosen novel the chapter would appear;
- feature *existing* characters, portrayed in the same manner as your author; and
- demonstrate a thorough understanding of the novel

### Rubric

If chosen, the Pulitzer Ghost Chapter is worth one Major Assessments grade.

<b>Content</b>	<i>The ghost chapter is detailed and meets the required length of 500 words. The plot aligns well with the storyline, and the characters are portrayed with accuracy.</i>	25	20	15	10	5	0
<b>Format + Style</b>	<i>The ghost chapter is formatted according to MLA guidelines and includes an original title. The student mimics the author's writing style successfully and makes clear where the chapter lives within the original storyline.</i>	25	20	15	10	5	0
<b>Originality</b>	<i>The content within the ghost chapter is both creative and original. The student's ideas are his or her own; he or she does not copy and alter the details from an existing chapter.</i>	25	20	15	10	5	0
<b>Mechanics</b>	<i>The ghost chapter is free of mechanical errors.</i>	25	20	15	10	5	0

**Final Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 100 Points

### Part 2 -- Option 2: 12-Sentence Paragraphs

Using the formatting guidelines and sample, write **two** 12-sentence paragraphs about your chosen novel. In the first paragraph, critically examine one of the novel's central or minor characters. Then, in the second paragraph, analyze a significant setting and its role, either in the plot or to one or more characters. Please include at least one embedded quote from the novel within each paragraph. The thesis is yours to choose for both. You will be assessed based on how well you adhere to the designated structure as well as the quality of your analysis. Standard MLA formatting rules apply!

Format	Example
01 -- Thesis 02 -- Explanation, Clarification, or Elaboration of Thesis 03 -- Claim #1 04 -- Quotation with Context Proving Claim #1 05 -- Commentary on Claim #1 06 -- Transition and Claim #2 07 -- Quotation with Context Proving Claim #2 08 -- Commentary on Claim #2 09 -- Transition and Claim #3 10 -- Quotation with Context Proving Claim #3 11 -- Commentary on Claim #3 12 -- Clincher Sentence that Summarizes and Restates the Thesis	<p>In Act 1 of William Shakespeare's <i>The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet</i>, Juliet is compliant around adults but flirtatious and willful otherwise. She might seem modest initially, but she has a will of her own and a playful spirit. In the first scene, during her conversation with her mother and the nurse, Juliet does little to suggest that she is anything but modest. When Lady Capulet asks her if she can like the family-sponsored suitor, Paris, Juliet replies that she will "look to like, if looking liking move" (1.3.98). Elizabethan parents expected their daughters to be pure of heart and willing to be led, and Juliet's response fits that description. When she meets Romeo, however, Juliet flirts with him with a wholeheartedness that belies her seemingly compliant nature. She plays coy with Romeo when he expresses his desire to kiss her, suggesting that "palm to palm is holy palmer's kiss" (1.5.98). Between Romeo's first line to Juliet and their first kiss is a mere 15 lines, showing unequivocally that when she is with a boy her own age, Juliet is spirited and playful. Furthermore, afterwards, when she is alone with the nurse, Juliet is devious. She tricks the nurse into revealing that "[h]is name is Romeo," and lies when the nurse catches her bemoaning her fate (1.5.156). In deceiving her beloved Nurse, Juliet shows how willful she can be. Out of earshot of adults, Juliet is a bolder, self-confident, and independent young woman.</p>

<b>Rubric</b>		
If chosen, the Pulitzer 12-sentence paragraphs are worth one Major Assessments grade.		
<b>Content</b>	<i>Two 12-sentence paragraphs are submitted for evaluation. The topic of the first is characterization; the second is setting. Both paragraphs are rich with analytical detail and feature defensible thesis statements. One quote is embedded within each paragraph.</i>	25 20 15 10 5 0
<b>Format + Style</b>	<i>Both paragraphs are structured according to the guidelines provided. The document is formatted in the MLA style and features an original title.</i>	25 20 15 10 5 0
<b>Sophistication</b>	<i>The content within the two paragraphs is both creative and original. The student "demonstrates sophistication of thought and develops a complex literary argument."</i>	25 20 15 10 5 0
<b>Mechanics</b>	<i>Both paragraphs are free of mechanical errors.</i>	25 20 15 10 5 0

**Final Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 100 Points**

Have fun! If you have any questions, please email me: [cblevins@williamandreed.com](mailto:cblevins@williamandreed.com). Enjoy your summer!

*Mrs. Blevins*