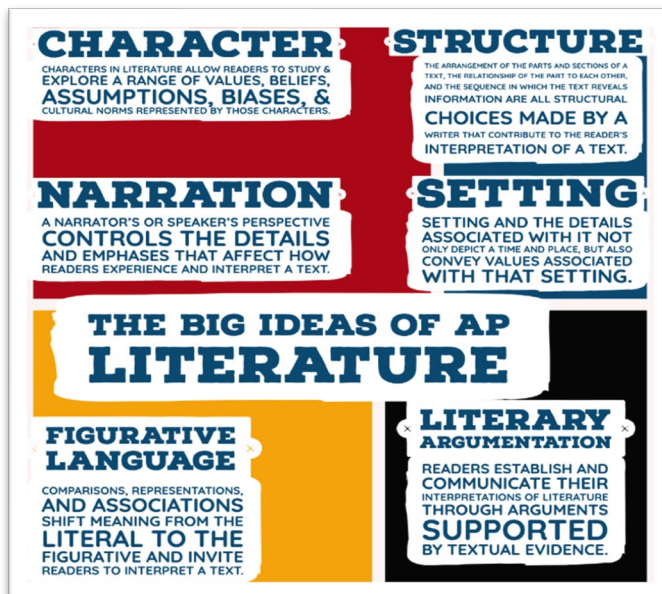


AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading 22-23

Welcome to the world of Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. As teachers and readers, we are thrilled to be teaching this class because of our own passion for and excitement about literature, and we sincerely hope that you will find your own enjoyment in our discussions.

You will read a lot. If reading isn't a habit of yours, you might consider a different senior English course. For summer reading there are three texts we ask you to engage with. We strongly recommend that you purchase your own copies of print texts so that you can annotate as you read; reading journals and digital copies are just not the same.

- *The Poisonwood Bible*—Barbara Kingsolver (1998)
- *Heart of Darkness*: the graphic novel—Peter Kuper (2019)
- Watch the documentary *King Leopold's Ghost* (2006) (available to stream from Fulton County Library for free or various streaming services starting at \$1.99). Some images in the film are disturbing. Alternately, you may read *King Leopold's Ghost* by Adam Hochschild (1998). We recommend the documentary as it follows the legacy of Leopold into modern day, but everything related to the novels that you need to know is available through either text.



Students in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition need to be prepared to be challenged both in spirit and in mind by what they read. The texts we choose throughout the year are adult literature, typically found in the college courses that the AP program approximates. However, understanding the context of works is important to putting them in perspective. This readily happens in the classroom, where the teacher can create a context for learning and discussing. To prepare you for summer reading, when we are not together in class, a few contextual words about this summer's selections are in order:

Both *The Poisonwood Bible* and *Heart of Darkness* are written for adults and are not targeted toward adolescents. You may encounter themes, situations, or language that may make you uncomfortable; in particular these texts contain violence, racism, and mention sexual situations. It is always for a purpose and never used in a prurient fashion. In particular, do not assume that the visual format of the graphic novel means that this is a kid's book that you can simply fly through. Graphic novels take as much if not more work to read than a traditional text. If you have never read a graphic novel before, please visit the website below and review the necessary skills and terminology that you should become acquainted with. Additionally, you may visit Novelist through Classlink to preview the texts. If you are concerned about the summer readings, please contact either Ms. Cooney or Dr. Eidson at the email below. We would prefer to speak with you rather than have you start the school year being uncomfortable.

You can find resources to help your reading at <http://sites.google.com/site/cooneyworldchs>

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