

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Summer Reading Assignment

Mandatory Reading Selections

- *Man's Search For Meaning* by Viktor Frankl
- *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe
- "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe

Link for story: <https://www.poemuseum.org/the-tell-tale-heart>

ASSIGNMENT

Designed to introduce you to the amount, intensity, and level of reading assignments intrinsic to an AP English course, this summer reading assignment will help you develop the critical reading and writing skills requisite to success in a college-level course. You should approach the reading and writing assignments with a sincere desire both to prepare yourself for the course and to deepen your understanding of the historical, political, religious, and cultural contexts that influence human experience—past, present, or future.

With these points in mind, you will prepare a critical response journal, a type of writing that requires you to engage in a particular text with an open, sincere attitude, to explore possible meanings and implications, to question ambiguity or discrepancies, and to grapple with disquietude or other emotional responses to the text. In short, journal writing allows you as a reader and writer to explore ideas, *your* ideas, and to interact with a text on your terms, at your level of understanding; therefore, journal writing has no clear-cut "right" or "wrong" answer to the questions posed. Instead, you should strive to answer questions honestly without the use of materials other than your own thoughts and ideas.

Journal responses are due on **Friday, August 14**, and will be used during the first quarter to inspire conversations and essays about the themes, issues, conflicts, ideas, and situations presented in the readings. Journals will be assessed as follows:

- Formative Assessment Grade based on:
 - Thorough, substantial responses that include specific details and references to the literary works
 - Accuracy of responses—include correct information about the events and characters/people involved in them
 - Correct grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling
 - Following directions
- Summative Assessment Grade during the 1st Quarter as determined by the teacher

Requirements:

- All journal entries should be typed, collated and stapled together with a cover sheet indicating the student's name and course.

- Length of journal response for each literary work should be 350-500 words total.
- Each journal response should be labeled with the specific literary work being analyzed.
- Students are expected to use their own ideas and demonstrate their understanding of the books by completing this assignment. Therefore, students should NOT consult internet and/or other sources of information about the books in order to avoid plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to:
 - cutting and pasting information or answers from an internet source
 - copying information or answers from any source other than the book itself
 - paraphrasing the ideas of or altering the words of other sources

Questions: Respond to each question for the text specified. All responses should include specific textual evidence.

1. *Man's Search For Meaning*

Setting and Theme: What moral struggles, both external and internal, dominate Frankl's experiences in the concentration camps? How do his struggles, as well as those of other prisoners, influence his thoughts and behavior? His decisions? What conclusions does Frankl reach about human existence, about the purpose of suffering, about the individual based on his experiences?

2. *Doctor Faustus*

Plot and Characterization: As the title character, Doctor Faustus is the protagonist of the play—what dominant qualities and traits does he exhibit? As the protagonist, he faces different types of antagonists—other characters, larger external forces, and his own conflicting desires. Identify an example of each type of antagonist in the play and explain the nature of this conflict for Doctor Faustus.

3. *"The Tell-Tale Heart"*

Literary Elements and Techniques: Examine the author's use of literary elements and techniques such as point of view, selection of detail, imagery, symbolism, and syntax. How do these elements and techniques serve to characterize the protagonist? How or what do they contribute to the overall tone and meaning of the story?