



Summer Assignment for AP English Literature and Composition (12th Grade)

Welcome to your 12th grade English class: AP English Literature and Composition! In this class, you'll learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. You'll read literary works and write essays to explain and support your analysis of them. In AP English Literature and Composition, we focus on three main skills:

- 1) **Reading like a writer:** Identifying and analyzing the various choices a writer makes within their craft to appeal to their audience and communicate their ideas.
- 2) **Interpretation:** Developing and supporting your own understanding of a text's meaning and how it connects to its broader time period or culture.
- 3) **Knowledge of the literary canon:** Being able to identify the genre, time period, culture, and literary movement associated with any given work of literature.

This summer assignment is designed to give you a jumpstart towards mastering these skills. Please put your best effort into completing this work, as our first discussions in this class will build off of it.

We ask that you type this assignment. An electronic copy of this assignment is available on Google Classroom, along with PDFs of the required texts. You are also encouraged to buy your own copies of the books or check them out from the library.

Summer Assignment Google Classroom Join Code: 3swwxnyk

Checklist:

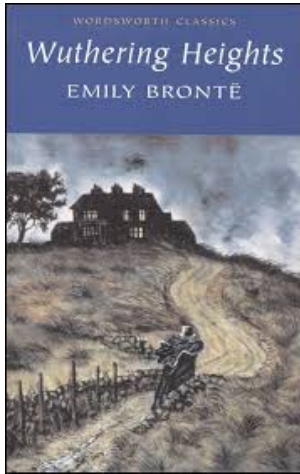
- ☐ Read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë (fiction)
- ☐ Complete the literary analysis graphic organizer for *Wuthering Heights*. (50 points)
- ☐ Read *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin (fiction)
- ☐ Complete the literary analysis graphic organizer for *The Awakening*. (50 points)
- ☐ Write a literary argument essay about ideas present in both texts (prompt on the next page). (100 points)

Due Date: Friday, August 14, 2026

Total Points: 200

Academic Integrity: It is necessary that students do their own work. Acts of academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, are very serious violations at BLSYW. Students who fail to maintain BLSYW's standards of academic integrity on this assignment will be subject to both academic and disciplinary consequences. Do not copy work from another student, the internet, or AI.

Required Reading



Fiction Text: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange, situated on the bleak Yorkshire moors in England, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of tempestuous events that took place years before. What unfolds is the tale of the intense love between the foundling Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Catherine, forced to choose between the passionate, tortured Heathcliff and the gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton, struggles with the expectations of her class. When bitterness and vengeance is visited upon the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past.



Fiction text: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

In The Awakening, Kate Chopin crafts a compelling narrative of self-discovery and liberation. Set in the vibrant backdrop of late 19th-century New Orleans and the idyllic Gulf Coast, the novel follows Edna Pontellier, a woman who begins to question the confines of her prescribed roles as wife and mother. Through a series of transformative experiences, Edna embarks on a journey to uncover her own identity and desires, challenging societal norms and exploring her longing for autonomy and fulfillment. Rich with vivid imagery and emotional depth, Chopin's groundbreaking work is a poignant exploration of personal awakening and the quest for freedom in a world bound by tradition.

A **literary argument** is an interpretation of a literature that presents a claim about the meaning or significance of the works. It involves analyzing various elements such as themes, characters, symbols, and literary devices.

Literary Argument Essay Prompt: Forbidden desire is a central theme in both *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë and *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. In a detailed essay, analyze how Brontë and Chopin depict forbidden desires and their consequences. Consider the relationships between characters in both novels and discuss how these forbidden desires challenge societal norms and impact the characters' lives. Provide textual evidence to support your analysis.

- ☐ Write at least 5 paragraphs (Introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion)
- ☐ Include a thesis statement that provides a defensible position.
- ☐ Introduce, cite, and explain at least two direct quotes from each book (four quotes total) as support, in addition to paraphrases and summaries that are in your own words.
- ☐ Explain how your evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- ☐ Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- ☐ Type essay in 12-point Times New Roman Font, double spaced. Submit to Google Classroom.

Literary Argument Essay Scoring Rubric

	High 30 points	Medium 25 points	Low 18 points	Missing 0 points
1. Thesis and Argument (30 points)	The thesis is clear and directly addresses the prompt. The argument is insightful, well-organized, and thoroughly developed, using strong evidence from both books.	The thesis is mostly clear and addresses the prompt. The argument is organized and developed, using adequate evidence from both books.	The thesis is unclear or only partially addresses the prompt. The argument lacks clear organization and development, with weak evidence from both books.	No thesis or argument is present.
2. Use of Textual Evidence (30 points)	Integrates strong and relevant evidence from both books effectively to support the argument. Evidence is well-chosen and clearly explained.	Integrates some relevant evidence from both books to support the argument. Evidence is somewhat well-chosen but may lack clear explanation.	Integrates little relevant evidence from both books to support the argument. Evidence is weak or poorly explained.	Does not use any textual evidence from the books.
3. Analysis and Interpretation (30 points)	Analysis is insightful and effectively explains how the evidence supports the thesis. Demonstrates deep understanding of both books and their themes.	Analysis is adequate and generally explains how the evidence supports the thesis. Demonstrates a basic understanding of both books and their themes.	Analysis is weak and poorly explains how the evidence supports the thesis. Demonstrates little understanding of both books and their themes.	No analysis or interpretation is present.
Style and Conventions (10 points)	Writing is very clear, engaging, and uses a mature style. Few or no grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors. 10 points	Writing is somewhat clear but not very engaging. Several grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors. 8 points	Writing is unclear and not engaging. Many grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors. 6 points	Writing is unreadable or does not follow any conventions. 0 points

Literary Analysis Graphic Organizer for *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

As you read *Wuthering Heights*, analyze the author's use of literary devices on the table below. Please use complete sentences.

Literary Devices + Definitions	Your Response	Quote from the Text as Support
Setting Where does the story take place? What is the time period? How does this setting contribute to the drama or conflict of the story?		
Characters Who are the key characters? What are their personalities? How do their personalities and relationships contribute to the drama of the story?		
Plot What is the sequence of key events? How do these events contribute to the drama of the story?		
Conflict What is the central conflict of the story? How does this conflict contribute to the novel's themes?		
Point of View What type of narrator does the story have? Is the narrator a character in the story, or is it a third person omniscient narrator? What are some key messages that the narrator communicates in the story?		
Figurative Language What are three key examples of figurative language from the novel? (Such as metaphor, simile, and personification.) How does the use of this language enhance the novel?		
Style Describe the author's writing style (tone, diction, word-choice, etc.). How does this style help to contribute to the development of drama and key themes?		

Literary Analysis Graphic Organizer for *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

As you read *The Awakening*, analyze the author's use of literary devices on the table below. Please use complete sentences.

Literary Devices + Definitions	Your Response	Quote from the Text as Support
Setting Where does the story take place? What is the time period? How does this setting contribute to the drama or conflict of the story?		
Characters Who are the key characters? What are their personalities? How do their personalities and relationships contribute to the drama of the story?		
Plot What is the sequence of key events? How do these events contribute to the drama of the story?		
Conflict What is the central conflict of the story? How does this conflict contribute to the novel's themes?		
Point of View What type of narrator does the story have? Is the narrator a character in the story, or is it a third person omniscient narrator? What are some key messages that the narrator communicates in the story?		
Figurative Language What are three key examples of figurative language from the novel? (Such as metaphor, simile, and personification.) How does the use of this language enhance the novel?		
Style Describe the author's writing style (tone, diction, word-choice, etc.). How does this style help to contribute to the development of drama and key themes?		

SUGGESTED Work Completion Timeline

Everyone knows that waiting until the last minute is a recipe for disaster! Use the following timeline to help keep yourself on track throughout the summer.

Friday, June 26 - Finish reading *Wuthering Heights*.

Thursday, July 2 - Finish the literary analysis graphic organizer for *Wuthering Heights*.

Friday, July 24 - Finish reading *The Awakening*.

Friday, July 31 - Finish the literary analysis graphic organizer for *The Awakening*.

Friday, August 14 - Finish the literary argument essay about both texts (**Hard deadline for all assignments**).

Need support?

- Google Classroom has links to full-text PDFs and audiobooks of the texts, if available.
- Additional reference materials, study questions, and essay planning graphic organizers are provided on Google Classroom to assist you in your comprehension and writing. These are just supplemental aids and will not be graded.
- Email **Mr. Opara** with any questions or requests for help on your work: **nopara@blsyw.org**
- Requests for an extension on the Friday, August 14 deadline should be sent to Mr. Opara for consideration, along with an explanation of why the extension is needed.