

**AP English Literature IV  
Summer Reading and Class Information**

Introduction:

- “AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a works structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.” This course will show students how to look at literature with a Christian worldview and find the gems of knowledge that are buried beneath each page and hidden within each literary technique.

Specific skills for success:

- Highly developed reading, writing, vocabulary and oral communication skills
- Effective time management
- Critical thinking, reading, and writing
- Effective study and organizational skills
- Constructive participation in class
- Effective collaborative group skills
- Perseverance to overcome challenging pieces of text and/or assignments

Out-of-class commitments:

- Nightly homework (determined by literary work or assignment)
- Selected reading and writing that align with a college course
- Individual or group projects

Summer Reading

- One novel is required: *Scarlett Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. **Printed copy of text not electronic copy required.** Completing this book is required before entering AP IV.

Main text for the year:

Second Edition ©2017

Title: *Literature & Composition* (ebook) Reading, Writing, Thinking

Authors: Carol Jago (Santa Monica High School, CA) , Renee H. Shea (Bowie State University, MD) , Lawrence Scanlon (Brewster High School, NY) , Robin Dissin Aufses (Lycée Français de New York)

Publishers: Bedford, Freeman, and Worth

**Assignment Sheet**  
**Assignments Due August 24**

The Scarlet Letter:

- The Scarlet Diary

Create a journal/diary for one of the three main characters. In that character's voice (first person), you will create at least 7 dated entries in sequential order based on what's happening at the time. This will allow you to comment on the major events of the plot. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- The first appearance of the character in the story
- Any meeting that your character has with another of the characters
- Any important event that occurs in the story
- Any physical/psychological changes in the character
- Where the character leaves the story

The story covers years in the character's life so you will observe changes in the character's acceptance in the community, the physical and/or mental condition of your character, and his/her relationship with the other characters. The main characters who will appear in your journal will be Hester Prynne, Pearl, Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth. You may choose any of these as your "journal writer", but all of them will appear in your journal.

Here is a sample journal entry: *October 2, 1641 My heart knows not the words to beg of my Lord forgiveness for what I have done this day. I weep now, in solitude, for I realize that this evening has brought upon my soul a weight that I may never ever be released from. I have spent hours before my looking glass, weeping, praying, begging the Lord's mercy, for on this night I have condemned my soul to eternal damnation.....etc.*

You may write in the above style or our modern style of writing. Revise and correct spelling, grammar, etc., so it looks nice. Be creative about what your diary looks like. Needs to be completed on actual paper not on your computer or iPad.