

Mrs. Cox

Summer Reading for AP Literature & Composition

Dear Advanced Placement English Literature Student,

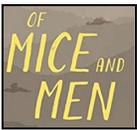
Congrats on accepting the call to the Advanced Placement program here at River Valley High School! I look forward to getting to know each of you this fall. This course will be rigorous, but you will feel so accomplished a year from now to look back on everything you challenged yourself to do. You will read and listen to some of the greatest works of literature, and you will write and speak about each work. As this is a college-level course (both through URG and the College Board), these skills need to continue throughout the summer with the reading of collegiate-level literature. Some of this literature will include themes appropriate for collegiate-level courses; students are expected to handle this with maturity and discipline in all aspects of discussion of the text.

Over the summer, you will be expected to:

1. Read *a Classic American novel*. I have put together a list of four top classics in the American Lit canon that most of you have not read. All four are available as free PDFs online; I've provided the links below, as well as on the Google Classroom page (link below), or you are welcome to order a copy off Amazon. I have a class set of *The Scarlet Letter*, but at this point there is no plan for distributing those to you. If that changes, I will update our Google Classroom page.



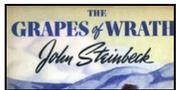
- a. *The Scarlet Letter* / Nathaniel Hawthorne - <http://www.literatureproject.com/scarlet-letter/> A woman is sentenced to wear a scarlet A on her chest after committing a crime in Salem during the witch trial era.



- b. *Of Mice & Men* - John Steinbeck <http://www.shipk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Steinbeck - Of Mice and Men.pdf> Two migrant farmers dream of owning a house and living a better life during the Great Depression.



- c. *Catcher in the Rye* - JD Salinger <https://www.uzickagimnazija.edu.rs/files/Catcher%20in%20the%20Rye.pdf> A troubled teen talks about how he played hooky in New York City for two days before being expelled from school.



- d. *Grapes of Wrath* - John Steinbeck <https://www.booksfree.org/the-grapes-of-wrath-by-john-steinbeck/> A poor family of sharecroppers are forced to leave their home during the Great Depression.

2. While you read, make notes by jotting down ideas, observations, questions and connections. Pay particular attention to events, passages, and ideas related to **1-2 themes of your choice**. You may use sticky notes, note cards, or any written method for your responses to the reading as long as you include the passage and page number in your notations; these notes will be evaluated for **quality** and **depth of thought**. You should aim for about *ten thoughtful ½ page notes* that span the entirety of the novel.

***** Do not choose a book you have read before. You must choose one that is new to you. I know some of you read *Of Mice and Men* with Ms. Campbell, for example - so choose one of the other options. *****

In sum: 1) Log in to our Google Classroom page 2) Choose a novel to read 3) take ten thoughtful notes

Have fun reading this summer,

Mrs. Cox

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Google Classroom Code: **xmwsudy**