Dear 4AP English Literature Student:

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition, the final AP course in the Honors English sequence. In this class, you will become a better reader, writer, and thinker as you explore the works of some of the greatest authors of British and American Literature.

**Assignment:**

We would like you to read *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey and an additional title from the sophomore-senior reading list which includes a range of interests and genres.

When classes begin in the fall, you will complete the following:

- A **reading-check test** on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* which will take place on the second day of class. Remember, study for this. Know the characters. Know what happens in the story in great detail. The first step to becoming a good reader is knowing the details well. **YOU MAY NOT USE NOTES ON THE TEST.**

- **Writing and/or discussion assignments** on the novels. Your teacher will give you the assignments once school begins.

***Please note:** Completing summer reading is the first requirement for this course. Students will not be allowed to drop this course solely because they have not done summer reading.

Give yourself the best possible chance to start the year well; read the above novels thoughtfully with the careful eye and dedication of an AP English student. As it gets closer to the first day of school, study your notes in preparation for the reading-check test. This means that you read every word carefully and take extensive notes on the details of plot and character, even noting key passages so that you are prepared for the reading-check test on the novel on the second day of school. This test will include detailed questions about character and plot. The test will also include quote identification questions in which you will be asked to identify the speaker or the context of multiple quotes. In order to do well on this type of question, you must know the plot, characters, and relationships between characters well. Read carefully. Skimming will not be enough to be successful. In addition, do not study online substitutes, such as Spark Notes—the test covers in-depth information.

Secondly, mark quotes that stand out and search for larger thematic topics present in the story, such as POWER and ISOLATION for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Once you have identified some larger topics, think about the topics: How do the characters/scenes connect to the topic? Is it in the same way? Is the topic revealed as a good or a bad thing? Overall, what is the novel revealing about the topic? These thoughts will prepare you for both the reading check-test and the writing/discussion assignments.

All titles for this course are available to borrow in Sora/OverDrive on your iPad for free right now. You can also or borrow the titles from any local libraries or purchase through Amazon or any other book provider. Note that the books from Sora are on digital loan so you will only have them for six weeks before needing to re-borrow. You can always see your notes when you re-borrow, but may want to download your annotations once you finish the book for use in August. Additionally, this information is posted for students on the Glenbard East website under the Summer Reading link.

We look forward to meeting you in the fall and exploring great literature with you. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The 4AP Teachers