

AP Literature Summer Reading Journaling Guides

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Beloved by Toni Morrison

A Room with a View by E. M. Forster

Important: You do not need an MLA heading at the top of each sheet, but you do need to double space and cite properly. Use one (1) cover sheet (copied from the website) for all three (3) responses. You do not need a Works Cited page as we are all working from the same text. That said, only four (4) pages (one [1] cover sheet and three [3] one [1]-page responses) should be submitted.

The novels listed above are central to class work and discussions during the first weeks of AP Literature. After reading each novel, write thoughtfully about it in response to the prompts listed below. These responses comment on the work's plot and action, characterization, language, themes, and style and encourage your personal reactions to those elements of the novel.

For each title, choose any *one* of the following guidelines, but **use a different question for each of the three (3) works**. Clearly indicate **by number** which questions you are answering. Please limit your responses to **one (1) full typewritten page (Times New Roman 12 point font) for each title**. This set of responses will count as a major test grade. The assignment is due on the first full day of class. If late, your work will be downgraded one letter grade for each day of lateness within the first full week of classes in September. Should the assignment be more than one week late, although you will receive “credit” for having completed and submitted it, the assignment will receive a “0” grade. Should the assignment be totally disregarded and NOT submitted, you risk a failure, “F,” for the course since you will not have fulfilled all the course requirements.

1. Choose a chapter or a section of the work. Comment on its significance. How does it contribute to the meaning of the entire work?
2. Ask questions about a chapter or a section of the work or about the work as a whole. Has anything caused confusion for you? Direct your questions to the author, a character, or the class. Let the questions take you into a conversation with your audience.
3. Describe your reaction(s) to a stylistic technique you confronted in the work. What makes the style of this work remarkable? Did you do any research on this author's style that informed your comprehension of his/her work?
4. Talk about the relationship characters have to/with one another, quoting specific words or phrases to give evidence of the nature of the relationship, the causes for conflict, the apparent position of the author in regard to the characters.
5. Pretend you are an actor playing one of the characters in the work. Put yourself in the character's place. Using first person, communicate the character's feelings about himself/herself or about the other characters or about his/her situation or difficulties.

6. Does a specific component of the work, for example, dialect, setting, stylistic techniques, symbolism, contribute to its meaning and its effectiveness? Reflect on the author's use of that component as it enhances the work.