

AP Literature Summer Reading Journaling Guides

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Beloved by Toni Morrison

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 cover sheet (copied from the website) for all three responses. You do not need a Works Cited page, as we are all working from the same text. Only four pages (1 cover sheet and 2 one-page responses) should be handed in.

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 the book 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 book.

For each title, choose any *one* of the following guidelines, but **use a different question for each of the two (2) works**. Clearly indicate **by number** which questions you are answering. Please limit your responses to **one full typewritten (12 pt. font) page per title**. This set of responses will count as a major test grade. The assignment is due on the first 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 section of the work. Comment on what you think is the significance of this excerpt. How does this chapter or section contribute to meaning in the entire work?
2. Ask questions about a chapter or section of the work, or about the work as a whole. Has anything caused confusion for you as you read it? 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 about this author's style that helped you to better comprehend his/her work?
4. Talk about the relationship characters have to one another, quoting specific words or phrases to give evidence for 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. Get inside the character's mind. Using first person, communicate how the character feels about himself/herself, about the other characters, or about his/her situation or difficulties.
6. Is there a specific component of the work (i.e., dialect, setting, stylistic techniques, symbolism) that contributes to the meaning and effectiveness of the work? Reflect on the author's use of that component as it enhances the work.