

COHEA 2023 AP Literature and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment

Novel: *Watchmen* by Allan Moore

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition! This is an exciting class that will ask you to look closely and question the world around you as you make your way through a variety of fictional readings. We have designed this summer reading assignment to give you an introduction to the type of reading you will experience and the degree of close reading you will do in the course.

Our goal is always to evaluate and analyze how authors create meaning and then to establish your own reactions and beliefs in response to their opinion. It is important to read with an open, but critical mind and to never take a writer's word without thinking and investigating.

This class requires you to delve deeply into the readings, to question the writer's intent, purpose, bias, and to grapple with the issues the writer presents.

Do not wait until the last minute to read your book. You will not be able to read on the intense level the assignment requires if you wait until the last week before school begins. Read the ENTIRE book, including the preface and afterword.

Assignment: Create a dialectical journal that chronicles your close reading. A dialectical journal is a tool that allows readers to engage with the ideas in the text. While reading, you will select thoughtful passages from the text, then respond to those passages. Your entries should move beyond personal comments and more into analysis of how the piece is crafted. The purpose is to help you engage in the reading in a way to prepare you for rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis and to show evidence of that engagement on the page.

Your submission should include 15 entries. These entries should span the entire book; they should not only be from the first 100 pages.

The summer reading assignment will be due the first week of school.



Guidelines for Entries:

Use the following list to help direct your notations as you read. Under each category you will find possible focus areas for your journal entries.

1. Reader Response: Be able to trace your reactions and to remind yourself when you find answers to earlier questions. This should help you to note the writer's effectiveness.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Your reactions/emotional responses (humor, surprise, sadness, anger, frustration, disappointment, tension/suspense, disgust, criticism, disagreement, confusion)
- Your questions or lack of understanding or doubts (ask "Why?")

- Your revelations: when “things” become clear to you, when you make links
- Similarities to other works: “Reminds me of...”
- Wonderful writing- passages that strike you artistically/aesthetically and why

2. Speaker: Think about who the writer is and what he/she knows is communicated. This should help you decide the author’s credibility.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Introductory facts: author backgrounds and relationship to the topic, bias, etc.
- Ethos- how the author establishes credibility and character on the given topic
- Note words and language that indicate the author’s attitude or tone and where it shifts or changes and why
- When the author directly or indirectly states how he/she feels
- Note key lines that stand out as crucial to the author’s argument

3. Occasion: Think about what caused the author to write about this topic and whether it is a valid reason. MAKE NOTE OF:

- The author’s reasons for writing- what is the motivation?
- Historical, political, social issues surrounding the topic
- The author’s personal reasons as well as the greater world/national reasons for the piece
- Evidence of views characteristic of the time period and culture surrounding the work
- Descriptions of class judgments, racism, gender biases, stereotypes, etc.

4. Audience: Think about what kind of person or people the author intended as the audience and whether the author can connect with that audience effectively.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Evidence of whom (and it can be more than one) the author is trying to reach.
- Where the author directly or indirectly addresses a specific audience
- Any “Call to Action” that the author is issuing to the reader
- Pathos- where the author appeals to your sense of emotion through anecdotes and figurative language

5. Purpose: Think about the author’s purpose in writing this book and whether they are effective in that purpose. MAKE NOTE OF:

- Specific reasons for writing: informing, persuading, arguing, refuting, exemplifying- but make sure you note specifics
- Logos: the author’s appeal to reason. Examine how he/she makes the reader believe in that purpose

6. Subject: Think about what the book is discussing and whether the author shows why this subject is important. MAKE NOTE OF:

- Elements related to the problem and issue
- How the author develops or deepens the aspects of the problem/issue
- How the author shows the complications related to the subject and the implication of it to you, the nation, the world, etc.

7. Authorial Devices and Structures in the Argument: Think about the author’s techniques in delivery and how effective author’s methods are for rhetorical purposes - the use of subtleties, patterns, style, structure, etc. MAKE NOTE OF:

- Changes in point of view/emphasis
- Crucial language/vocabulary- not just a word that you don’t understand, but one that seems crucial to understanding the

argument- look these up.

- Stylistic techniques: irony, satire, humor, exaggeration, repetition/patterns, possible symbols, significant metaphors and other

notable literary and rhetorical devices

- How the author’s structure of the argument/book influence the reader and relate to the subject, audience, and purpose

Here are a few sample entries from Malcolm Gladwell’s *David and Goliath*:

Page	Passage	Response
49	Money makes parenting easier until a certain point---when it stops making much of a difference. What is the point? The scholars who research happiness suggest that more money stops making people happier at a family income of around seventy-five thousand dollars a year. After that, what economists call “diminishing marginal returns” sets in. If your family makes seventy-five thousand and your neighbor makes a hundred thousand, that extra twenty-five thousand a year means that your neighbor can drive a nicer car and go out to eat slightly more often. But it doesn’t make your neighbor happier than you, or better equipped to do the thousands of small and large things that make for being a good parent.	I wasn’t too sure about the “diminishing marginal returns” so I looked it up. Apparently, that little bit of money makes everything stay the same. So, the phrase “money doesn’t buy happiness” really does mean just that. As the article mentioned, you might be able to eat out more but nothing else will really change!
77	If you were to rank all the students in the world taking organic chemistry, Sacks would probably be in the 99th percentile. But the problem was, Sacks wasn’t comparing herself to all students in the world taking Organic Chemistry. She was comparing herself to her fellow students at Brown. She was a Little Fish in one of the deepest and most competitive ponds in the country---and the experience of comparing herself to all the other brilliant fish shattered her confidence. It made her feel stupid, even though she isn’t stupid at all.	Why is organic chemistry capitalized in one paragraph, but not the other? In this section, Gladwell argues that even if you get accepted into an Ivy League school, that might not be the best option for some kids. If the school is more competitive than supportive, some kids, like Caroline Sacks, won’t thrive there. Sacks’ personal story is interesting, Gladwell also offers graphs later that show how many top scientists who publish their work went to state schools.
81	More than half of all-American students who start out in science, technology, and math programs (or STEM, as they are now known) drop out after their first or second year. Even though	I really found this explanation very easy to follow. The author starts off with the fact that half of the

	<p>science degree is just about the most valuable asset a person can have in the modern economy, large numbers of would-be STEM majors end up switching into the arts, where the academic standards are less demanding and the coursework less competitive. That's the major reason there is such a shortage of qualified American educated and engineers in the United States.</p>	<p>science majors drop out after their first or second year. Then he offers his opinion on Science classes which then relates back to the lack of qualified engineers (another fact.)</p>
123-124	<p>But Cohn? He was selling aluminum siding. His mother though that he would be lucky to end up a truck driver. He had been kicked out of schools and dismissed as an idiot, and even as an adult, it took him six hours to read twentytwo pages because he had to work his way word by word to make sure he understood what he was reading. He had nothing to lose. "My upbringing allowed me to be comfortable with failure."</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dyslexia---in the best of cases---forces you to develop skills that might otherwise have lain dormant.</p> <p>...</p> <p>And Gary Cohn? It runs out he was a really good trader, and it turns out learning how to deal with the possibility of failure is really good preparation for a career in the business world. Today he is the president of Goldman Sachs.</p>	<p>In this section of the book Gladwell uses several stories to support his claim that in some cases people may benefit from struggling with dyslexia. It makes them develop other skills that make them successful.</p> <p>Gladwell relies on the personal stories of several men---David Boies, the Hollywood producer Brian Grazer, and Gary Cohn---all who grew up with dyslexia.</p> <p>Even though Gladwell quotes scientists too in this section, the personal stories are the most memorable. Especially when he uses the men's own words.</p>

Submission Directions:

Please save your journals as a Word document in the following format:
 Last Name_First Initial_APLitSummerRead

-During the week of school, share your completed assignment with your AP Literature teacher via Google Classroom.

-If you have any questions regarding submission, please email Mrs. Simpson asimpson@cohe.edu or Mr. Bueno cbueno@cohe.edu .

Remember, your submission should have 15 entries.