

12th Grade Honors English (English/European Literature) Required Summer Reading for Students Admitted to This Class

All students must read **Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*** as well as **one** of the books listed below. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* will form the course's first major unit of study, so it is imperative that you read this book with care. (Note, however, that Kundera's book contains some explicit sexual material in context. If you have questions about this reading, please contact the instructor to arrange an alternative reading assignment.) If possible, you should **buy** both books. In preparation for the essay you will write during the first week of school, you must **underline** important and interesting passages in both books and **make frequent, copious marginal notes**. Look for important **social and historical ideas and connections** as well as how the author uses language to develop **theme, character, and plot**. Use large post-it notes for anything you cannot fit into the margins of the book. (If you must get the book from a library, use numerous post-it-notes for all your annotations and comments.) In addition, you should record on separate paper a **minimum of fifteen significant quotations and explanations of their significance** (with page references). Your annotated books and your lists of quotes will be collected **on the first day of class**.

During the first week of school, you will be able to use your marked-up books and lists of quotations for an **in-class essay exam** in which you will be expected to analyze the relevancy of these books to the study of American literature. For your essay you will need to understand these books' language, stylistic devices, theme(s), and literary merit. Failure to satisfactorily complete the summer reading assignment (both the book annotation and the in-class essay) will result in your **removal from the entire honors/AP program**.

Joaquim Machado de Assis	<i>Dom Casmurro</i>
Jane Austen	<i>Northanger Abbey</i> OR <i>Mansfield Park</i>
Horore de Balzac	<i>Cousin Bette</i>
Louis de Bernieres	<i>Corelli's Mandolin</i>
Charlotte Bronte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Emily Bronte	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>
A.S. Byatt	<i>Possession</i>
Albert Camus	<i>The Fall</i> OR <i>The Plague</i>
Louis-Ferdinand Celine	<i>Journey to the Edge of Night</i> OR <i>Death on the Installment Plan</i>
J.M. Coetzee	<i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>
Jill Ker Conway	<i>The Road from Coorain</i>
Alexander Dumas	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> OR <i>The Three Musketeers</i>
F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Tender is the Night</i>
Gustave Flaubert	<i>Madame Bovary</i>
Thomas Hardy	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i> OR <i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>
Victor Hugo	<i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> OR <i>Les Miserables</i>
Franz Kafka	<i>The Castle</i> OR <i>The Trial</i>
Nikos Kazantzakis	<i>Zorba the Greek</i> OR <i>The Last Temptation of Christ</i>
Giuseppe di Lampedusa	<i>The Leopard</i>
D.H. Lawrence	<i>Women in Love</i> OR <i>Sons and Lovers</i>
Jean-Baptiste Moliere	<i>Tartuffe</i> AND <i>The Miser</i> (both)
Vladimir Nabokov	<i>Laughter in the Dark</i>
V.S. Naipaul	<i>The Mystic Masseur</i> OR <i>A Bend in the River</i>
Muriel Spark	<i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> OR <i>Memento Mori</i>
Jose Saramago	<i>Blindness</i>
Oscar Wilde	<i>A Woman of No Importance</i> AND <i>An Ideal Husband</i> (both)
Virginia Woolf	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> OR <i>Jacob's Room</i>