



# AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2017

## Part One

Choose and read one of the novels listed below

- Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko
- Jasmine* by Bharrati Mukherjee
- Native Son* by Richard Wright
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey
- The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- Sula* by Toni Morrison
- A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

## Part Two

Write a 1-2 page TYPED response in MLA format to ONE of the following topics using the novel you have chosen from the list above. All of the prompts are actual College Board AP questions.

1. “And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*  
Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
2. Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the un-healable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said the exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience.  
  
Select a novel or play in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from home whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.
3. In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.” Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.
4. Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. Choose a novel or play that focuses on a political or social issue. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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In preparation for a fast-paced first semester, obtain a copy of *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte and begin reading.