

AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION MAJOR WORKS OF LITERATURE

2022 – 2023

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Important Information: Unless noted, any edition will do. All books must be either new or gently used with **no annotations but your own**. *Before reading any work of fiction, please read biographical information about the author, and be prepared to make specific connections to the work assigned.*

1. *THE LORDS OF DISCIPLINE: A NOVEL (Pat Conroy)

Contemporary, Regional, historical novel/social commentary

This long summer read captures the context of life in the elite environments of a revered 1960's military college and Charleston proper. Internal monologue juxtaposes with graphic dialogue in this coming-of-age story. The novel allows students to become familiar with an author's use of language to develop tone and meaning, the road map of literary analysis.

2. *SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE (Kurt Vonnegut)

Modern, magical realism novel

This 20th century antiwar book was birthed by its author due to his own experience in the WWII bombing of Dresden. As a survivor and PTSD victim, protagonist Billy Pilgrim journeys through time and place in his mind as a means of escape from the horrors that he witnessed in war. Sometimes outrageous, sometimes comedic, sometimes confusing, but always shocking and revealing, Billy's experience provides the readers a full context of the oft-quoted line "So it goes."

3. *DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Arthur Miller)

Modern drama/tragedy/social commentary: Pulitzer Prize for Drama, 1949

One of drama's best-known protagonists, Willy Loman evokes both empathy and disgust from the audience/reader as his delusions fight to overpower the reality of a 20th century world that has rejected him.

4. THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET (William Shakespeare)

Elizabethan drama (revenge tragedy; sometimes termed tragic-comic)

Writer of tragedy, history, comedy, and poetry, Will Shakespeare reveals his mastery of language and the human psyche in this complex tragedy, where a young prince is ordered by the ghost of his murdered father to avenge him. You could classify this tragedy with existential overtones as a Renaissance coming of age story. **Sparknotes No Fear Shakespeare 2003 Spark Publishing. ISBN: 1-58663-844-0, 337 pages (cover design: turquoise, black, white, and gold, with a black-shrouded character holding a white sword)**

5. *THE KITE RUNNER (Khaled Hosseini)

Contemporary, Regional, historical novel

This riveting tale told by the protagonist through flashbacks of his youth in Afghanistan and later in America explores the thematic topics of guilt, shame, redemption, and forgiveness.

*denotes language and adult scenes. Could be disturbing to some readers. All works are chosen for their literary merit and are recommended for the mature high school or college student.