



## WSHS AP Literature and Composition (Grade 12 AP) Summer Reading List 2009-10

---

Over the summer each AP Literature student is required to read a total of **two** books, *Wuthering Heights* and *Macbeth*, as well as to complete the reading guides explained below for both books. The required works will serve as a basis for classroom discussions and activities throughout the year. Students' knowledge of these works will be assessed through both written work and small-group oral presentations during the first quarter. *Note: This West Springfield High School list supersedes the Fairfax County reading list.*

### Required Reading

#### *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

Brontë's love story is widely praised for its symbolism, characterization, and structure. This psychological novel portrays issues of class and society during the Victorian era through striking imagery, style, and word choice.

**Please complete the attached summer reading guide as you read *Wuthering Heights*. Bring it with you on the first day of school, when we will use it in class.** The guide is also available in both pdf and Word format on the WSHS Library homepage.

#### *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's famous tragedy is a dark drama of murder and revenge. The play deals with a Scottish nobleman, his ambitious wife, and the results of their quest for power and position.

**Please complete the attached summer reading guide as you read *Macbeth*. Bring it with you on the first day of school, when we will use it in class.** The guide is also available in both pdf and Word format on the WSHS Library homepage.

### Optional Recommended Reading

To broaden your knowledge base and enable you to better recognize literary allusions, consider reading from these works:

#### *The Bible*

Many writers, both classical and contemporary, allude to biblical stories and draw from this source to enhance meaning.

#### *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton

Like the Bible, this classic by Edith Hamilton will provide background information for understanding and appreciating mythological allusions that abound in classical and modern literature.

*These books are available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis from the WSHS Library.*

## **Macbeth - Summer Reading Guide**

*(Complete this guide as you read, with AP-level thoroughness, to use on the first day of school. It will aid you in remembering key events in the play as we work on it in class.)*

<b>Act</b>	<b>Act 1</b>	<b>Act 2</b>	<b>Act 3</b>	<b>Act 4</b>	<b>Act 5</b>
<p><b>Plot:</b></p> <p><i>Describe (briefly) the significant actions that take place during this act.</i></p>					
<p><b>Significant Quotation:</b></p> <p><i>Choose a line or set of lines from each act that you believe to be significant to the themes of the play. Write them here, with line numbers, and briefly discuss why they are important.</i></p>					

## **Wuthering Heights -Summer Reading Guide**

*(Complete this guide as you read, with AP-level thoroughness, to use on the first day of class. It will aid you in remembering key events in the book as we work with the novel in class.)*

All the action in **Wuthering Heights** occurs in three principal settings – Thrushcross Grange, Wuthering Heights, and the moors that separate the two houses. As you read, examine the ways that these settings assume symbolic significance in relationship to the novel's conflicts. Complete the chart below with as much detailed thought as possible.

<b>Setting</b>	<b>Thrushcross Grange</b>	<b>Wuthering Heights</b>	<b>The Moors</b>
<b><i>What does this setting symbolize in relationship to the novel's conflicts?</i></b>			
<b><i>How does this symbolic setting add to your understanding of the novel's conflicts and themes?</i></b>			