



WOODBRIIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature and Composition! This is a course designed for students who are prepared to engage in collegiate level exploration of literature and produce writing of the same exceptional standard while still in high school. It is a course designed to prepare students to succeed on the College Board Advanced Placement Exam for Literature and Composition in May. But more than that, this is a course about the examination of ideas. In this course, you will encounter many of the greatest and most sophisticated thinkers in the history of our language. You will challenge and test their ideas against your own and explore the ways in which writers use language as art. This is a course about the power of human thought and the beauty of human expression. If you embrace the challenge of this course and open yourself up to be effected by the writers we meet, this course has the power to move you and change how you think, feel, and express yourself. This is powerful stuff and I commend you for the hard work and commitment to serious study that has led you to this point and which will ensure your success going forward. I hope you find this course deeply rewarding.

To better prepare you for a successful initiation into the AP Literature course we have developed a summer assignment directly related to our class goals. I recommend that you take your time with the assignment: this is not an assignment that you will be able to complete the week before school begins. The assignment does require access to a computer with Internet so if you do not have this access, please allow time to visit your public library or collaborate with a friend. Please use the email address below to contact me if you do not understand the assignment or need help.

What better way to prepare for a class about the expression of ideas than by reading a novel about the difficulty of finding a true voice in a society which demands conformity to strict rules of etiquette and right conduct, especially of its young women? We will examine a novel which itself depends on indirection and ironic expression. Your summer task is to read the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. I hope this novel will combine the features of a classic summer read – romance, suspense, humor – with the literary merit which is at the core of the course.

1. Prior to reading the novel, please go to <http://www.biography.com/people/jane-austen-9192819> and both read the short biography of Austen and watch the three video clips (“Lessons in Love,” “By a Lady,” and “Love, Finally”) available there. You may be quizzed on key details from these videos and this biography during the first week of class. If you are interested in exploring the period further, I highly recommend visiting www.pemberley.com or watching “Pride and Prejudice: Having a Ball” at <https://youtu.be/vHHh-Ppd8oI>, which follows the recreation a Regency Era ball in exhaustive period detail and provides a wonderful glimpse into the social world Austen describes in the early chapters of the novel.
2. To prepare for the quote identification test you will be given on the novel within the first week of school, you are required to fully **annotate** the novel as you read. Every page

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should demonstrate meaningful annotations. Enter into conversation with the novel; make notes on its technique, symbolism, and style; respond to moments which interest or frustrate you; highlight challenging vocabulary (Austen is famous for assuming a well-educated audience; she once wrote with pride “I do not write for such dull elves as have not a great deal of ingenuity themselves”) and have your novel ready to be collected and checked on the same day as the test (most likely the first Friday). For your in-book annotations to receive credit, your novel must be your own and have only your name written on the inside of the front cover. If you are borrowing a copy of the novel from a library or someone else, or are using an e-text or e-reader to read the novel, you will need to either include your annotations on post it notes or flags on every page or create a handwritten notebook of your annotations, which include notes and responses for **every page** of the text. If the name of any other person is written into your book or crossed out from it, I will be expecting post-its or a journal. Electronic annotations of any kind will not receive credit.

Congratulations on your success throughout our honors program! I look forward to getting to know you, discussing Austen’s wonderfully clever and subtly ironic novel, and exploring the world of great literature together. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Grant Davis
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