




THE MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL

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Summer Assignment for AP English Literature

Once again, congratulations on your acceptance to Advanced Placement English Literature! In the fall, we will explore a number of challenging and controversial texts by analyzing and discussing them in great detail. To prepare for this, complete the following summer assignment in addition to your summer advisory assignment:

- Read two novels: *Atonement* by Ian McEwan AND *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov (make sure you don't skip the "Foreword" of *Lolita*).
- Read Books 1 (all lines), 4 (lines 1 to 775), and 9 (lines 1 to 1190) of John Milton's epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, about the fall of Adam and Eve. Make sure the copy you read includes line numbers.

Note: While you might want to do a little background research about these texts/authors, you should not consult any study aids (e.g., Sparknotes) while you read these works! **Just use your brain and a good dictionary.**

- As you read each text, record your impressions, thoughts, and questions in a reading journal. Keep track of literary elements and devices. Also, record important lines (include line/page numbers). **This journal will become a study and writing tool in the fall, so your work should be organized and legible.** Here are some guiding questions to consider as you read:
 - Who is the storyteller? Why is he/she telling this story? How does he/she tell the story? (That is, how is the story structured and why?)
 - Are the characters good? Evil? Do you care about them? Why/why not? What important choices do the characters make?
 - What effect does the language have on you as a reader? Why?
 - Which passages or lines really stand out? Why?
- Set up a free account on Edmodo.com (group: AP Eng 2011-12, access code: xjuona) to participate in an online discussion about the summer reading. Be sure to read your classmates' comments and post your own comments **at least three times** before September 1, 2011 (the sooner you post, the better). Refer to specific parts of the texts and do what you can to move the online discussion forward and promote deep thinking. Here is a prompt to get the discussion going (but feel free to pose your own questions and use Edmodo as a tool to reach out to your classmates and develop our community of readers):

Humbert Humbert, Briony Tallis, Satan, Eve—love 'em or hate 'em? Why?

If you have questions about the assignment or the course, feel free e-mail Ms. Reyes (creyes8@schools.nyc.gov). Happy reading!