

## Summer Reading Assignment

### Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

**Required Reading:** All AP Literature students will read two texts this summer to prepare for the fall semester. AP Literature and Composition is designed to strengthen your abilities to analyze, enjoy, and write about literature.

1. **The Glass Menagerie** by Tennessee Williams
2. **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver

**Written Assignment:** 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 unhealable 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 that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience.

In many novels, plays, or epics, 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. Write an essay (3 to 5 pages, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, one inch margins, MLA format) based on The Poisonwood Bible in which you analyze how a character’s experience with exile is both alienating *and* enriching, *and* how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot (I have already read the book).

**Class Expectations:** All assignments will be collected during the first class meeting. For The Glass Menagerie you will have both a test and an essay assignment during the first week of school. Failure to complete the reading or written assignment will be detrimental to your first quarter grade.

In addition to the above assignments, students are expected to bring the books to class every day until the summer unit is complete. You will need your books to refer to quotations and passages during class discussions.

**Warning:** Do not read SparkNotes, Cliff’s Notes, Pink Monkey, etc. I expect you to read each work. An AP student does not depend on such sources. I consider these sources as a form of cheating.

If you have any questions, please email me at [rjackson@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:rjackson@greenville.k12.sc.us). See you in the fall.

Mr. Jackson