Part I: Before the beginning of AP Lit, you should read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

At the beginning of the semester, you will be expected to write a literary analysis essay on this work. You will receive specific instructions for the essay in class during the first week of class, but you will probably want to take notes as you read. Focus on the key ideas Hosseini develops in the novel, regarding subjects like loyalty, friendship, guilt and atonement, and love. You may also want to mark key quotes in the book so that you can easily find them if you choose to quote them in your essay. (You will be expected to incorporate quotes and paraphrases of key incidents from the novel into your essay.)

Part II: Read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver.
- Consider Kingsolver’s characterization, particularly the significance and effect(s) of alternating among narrators.
- You will be writing an in-class essay on the novel during the first week or two of school. We will also be discussing this book throughout the semester and using it as a common reference when addressing various literary terms and techniques, and we will be comparing it with other texts during the semester. As with the other assigned summer reading novel, you will want to mark key passages in this one to make them easily accessible for the essay and during discussions.

Part III: Read a classic novel or play by a well-respected author.
- You may choose any work of fiction that appeals to you, as long as it has “significant literary merit” and complexity. If you are unsure about a work, feel free to email me, and I’ll give you feedback. My personal email address is: jetheriot@yahoo.com. This is the one I check most often during the summer.
- Below are some authors to consider:

  - Nathaniel Hawthorne
  - Herman Melville
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - William Faulkner
  - Ernest Hemingway
  - Virginia Woolf
  - Leo Tolstoy
  - Fyodor Dostoyevsky
  - George Bernard Shaw
  - Jane Austen
  - Charles Dickens
  - William Shakespeare (not *Othello*)
  - Toni Morrison
  - Lorraine Hansberry
  - George Orwell
  - Tennessee Williams
  - Arthur Miller
  - John Irving
**Because AP Lit will only be offered first semester this year, your success will depend, in part, on the time and attention you give to the course after it officially ends. Below are a few simple steps that you can (and will be expected to) take in order to dramatically increase your chances of passing the AP exam.**

- Read the summer reading novels closely and analyze them as you go along. (Do not just settle for basic comprehension. Always consider author’s purpose. What is the theme, and how does the author use literary devices and techniques to convey it?)

- Read other works “of significant literary merit” over the summer and during first and second semesters. Consider works by classic authors (Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Hemingway, Melville, Hawthorne, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, Tolstoy, Shakespeare, Arthur Miller, Virginia Woolf, etc.) and well-respected modern authors (Ian McEwan, Khaled Hosseini, Barbara Kingsolver, Ann Patchett, Amy Tan, etc.). The broader your range of literary exposure, the better you will do both in the class and on the exam.

- Take my Enrichment for the spring semester if at all possible. We will be using this time to do a significant amount of review and testing practice that we simply will not have time for in the three months or so of class. The works that we cover and the activities that we do during Enrichment will keep your skills sharp and contribute significantly to your chance of success on the exam.