

The Village School's AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading Packet



Please complete and turn in the following activities
on the first day of school in August.

The Village School of Naples

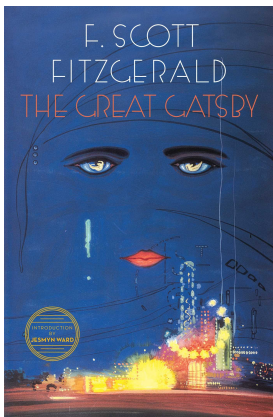
Required Summer Reading for Rising AP Literature & Composition Students

Dear AP Lit Students,

Welcome to your summer of reading! The books below will set the stage for our year together, so the tasks that accompany them should be executed with the same care and attention you'd give to any work during the school year. I am always available to you via email (dbright@tvsnaples.org) should you have any questions over the summer. I look forward to lots of laughing and learning as we read and think and write together.

Have a wonderful summer! Happy reading!

Ms. B. :)



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

ISBN-13: 978-0743273565 / Available for purchase [HERE](#)

Nick Carraway journeys from the "Middle West" to 1920s Long Island to find himself swept along in the turbulent extravagance of a class and an age. In the midst of the excess, the purity of one man's unwavering commitment to an ideal catches Carraway's imagination and has since come to represent, for good or for ill, so much of what it means to be America and American.

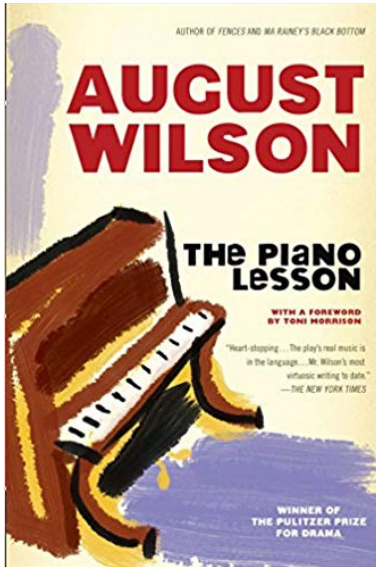
For a fun introduction to the era in which the book is set, go to Dana Huff's "[Gatsby Treasure Hunt](#)" and investigate some history and background information. The "After the War" link in #2 is broken; use [THIS](#) one instead. Take notes inside the covers of your book.

As you read this important book, annotate well. Use the margins for words, symbols, questions, reactions. Make note of:

- **ALL unfamiliar words**
- **references to historical and cultural events**
- **significant plot moments**
- **character development**
- **figurative language/powerful writing moves**
- **personal connections to people, events, and ideas in the book**

[HERE](#) is a list of study questions for the novel. It is not necessary that you write out answers to these questions, but it is necessary that you know the answers. Best to use them as a kind of self-quiz after each chapter.

And finally, [HERE](#) is a link to our summer blog. Please post six times over the course of the summer, in response to questions about the story and in response to questions about Fitzgerald's writing style. Specific instructions, and the questions themselves, are on the blog.



The Piano Lesson by August Wilson

ISBN-13: 978-0452265349 / Available for purchase [HERE](#)

Wilson's play is one of ten in the playwright's "Pittsburgh Cycle," chronicling a century's worth of the history of Black Americans during the Great Migration. This third play in the series explores a choice facing the Charles family: when they are given the opportunity to buy the Mississippi land on which their ancestors once worked as slaves, it seems the only way to finance the purchase is to sell another part of their legacy: a piano engraved with the likenesses of family members.

Annotate well as you read this play. Make note of:

- unfamiliar words
- references to historical and cultural events
- significant plot moments
- character development
- personal connections to or reactions to people and events in the play

Bring your annotated play with you on the first day of school. We will add *The Piano Lesson* to your repertoire of works available for your analysis on the AP Literature and Composition Exam's Literary Argument Question, which challenges you to apply a general question ABOUT literature to a specific piece OF literature. You will appreciate having a well-annotated copy when the time comes to prep for the exam!