



THE MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL

75 Broad Street - 13th floor, New York, NY 10004

PHONE 212-825-9008 • FAX 212-825-9095 • EMAIL 02M418@nycboe.net

Robert Rhodes, Principal

Y A collaboration between
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Summer Assignment for AP English Literature

Congratulations on your acceptance to Advanced Placement English Literature! Starting 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, you will need to 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 use any study aids (e.g., Sparknotes) while you read these works.

- As you read each text, record your impressions, thoughts, and questions in a reading journal. Keep track of characters (names, roles, relationships, etc.), plot, setting, motifs (as well as other literary devices you think are important), and themes. Also, record important lines (include line/page numbers). **This reading journal will become a study and writing tool next year, so your work should be organized, thorough, 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?
 - Are the characters good? Evil? Why/why not? What important choices do they make?
 - What effect does the language have on you as a reader? Why?
 - Which passages or lines really stand out? Why?
 - How does the text relate to other texts you have read?

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