

Miami Beach Senior High AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignments 2024

Incoming AP Literature/IB students should complete the two following assignments detailed below – an Allusions project (Parts A and B) and the reading of the novel, ***Native Son*** by Richard Wright (Part C). Enjoy your summer and your peripatetic literary travels. **Be sure to read pages 1-8 of this document.**

Note that AP and IB Literature programs place great importance on originality of thought and individual engagement with learning; reading Spark Notes/Cliff Notes or watching the movie will not cut it. If you are unwilling to put time into reading, then Advanced Placement Literature is not the class for you. In this class we spend a great deal of time reading, discussing, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature to prepare you for the AP Literature and Composition exam in May 2025.

ALLUSIONS PROJECT

Establishing a strong foundation in cultural literacy through studying common allusions that arise in imaginative literature is a good way to begin your AP or IB Literature English course. Two basic sources from which writers, especially poets, draw allusions and metaphors, are the Bible and the ancient classical writings, mainly Greek and Roman, but Indian as well. Knowledge of the characters and stories contained in the Bible and in the body of myths and legends from across the world will add to your enjoyment and understanding of good literature. From the very beginning of the literary canon, writers and storytellers have borrowed characters, plots, and themes from these sources.

Materials - 5 X 7 index/note cards (Do not use smaller cards)

Due - Your handwritten note cards are due on the first full block day of class.

Sources for the Allusions Project

- *The Bible*. (A King James Version which can be purchased quite inexpensively).
- *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton
- You may also use on-line sources. Good research relies on multiple sources so just be sure to cite all your sources.
- Research biblical, classical and some common allusions as follows.

PART A: STORIES



Pieter Brueghel the Elder, The Tower of Babel, 1563

**Take notes on your cards as you research these stories.
Use a separate card for each new story. Include the following:**

1. Name of Story
2. Source (Biblical, Greek, Roman - provide the book title or website title and address)
3. 50-word summary of the story
4. Approximately 100-word concise commentary on themes and sources of conflict and their significance
 - man vs. man, vs. God, vs. nature, vs. himself, etc.
 - Be critical. Identify and explain literary elements such as metaphors and symbols you notice being used. What do they contribute?
 - If you can, draw apt connections to other pieces of literature or other genres.

The Stories – Choose 15

1. The Garden of Eden (Genesis chapters 1-3)
2. Pandora's Box (Greek mythology)
3. Cain and Abel (Genesis chapter 4)
4. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
5. Pygmalion and Galatea (Greek mythology)
6. Echo and Narcissus (Greek mythology)
7. Jason and the Golden Fleece (Greek mythology)
8. Cupid and Psyche (Greek mythology)
9. Joseph and the coat of many colors (Genesis 37)
10. The Birth of Christ (Luke 1-2)
11. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-51)
12. Persephone (Greek mythology)
13. Odysseus and Penelope (Greek mythology)
14. Daedalus and Icarus (Greek mythology)
15. Orpheus and Eurydice (Greek mythology)
16. The Story of Job (The book of Job, Bible)
17. Story of Jonah (The book of Jonah, Bible)
18. Alexander the Great
19. Ramayana (Hindu story)
20. Vishnu (Hinduism)
21. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 10-11)
22. Abraham, Sarah, & Hagar (Genesis 12- 21)
23. Sodom & Gomorrah Destroyed (Genesis 18, 19)
24. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
25. The Prodigal Son Parable (Luke 15:11-32)
26. Jesus's Death (Mark 14-16)
27. Apocalyptic Visions (Revelations 3:14 - 1

PART B: ALLUSIONS.



The Lilliputians tie Gulliver down, Pictorial Press, 2020

For these, your cards will contain:

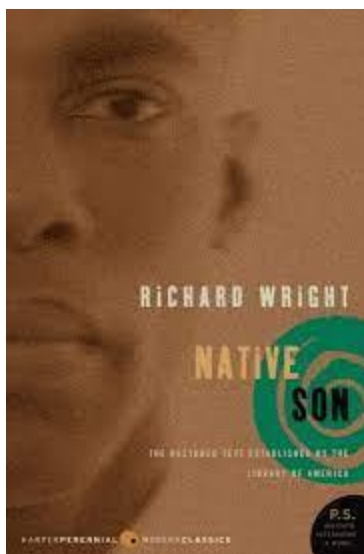
1. Line, word or phrase
2. Source
3. Approximately 50-100 words explaining the meaning.

Allusions – Choose 15

1. Arabian Nights
2. Asceticism
3. Avatar
4. Brahmins
5. Chosen people
6. Nirvana
7. Original sin

8. Purgatory
9. "O brave new world that has such people in it."
10. Big Brother is watching you.
11. Et tu, Brute?
12. Death, be not proud
13. There's a divinity that shapes our ends
14. No man is an island
15. For whom the bell tolls
16. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may
17. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
18. Iago
19. Lilliputian
20. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings."
21. Nineteen Eighty-four
22. Pollyanna
23. Pound of flesh
24. Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world
25. Yahoos
26. Armageddon / Apocalypse
27. Sisyphus
28. "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury signifying nothing."
29. Catch-22
30. "All things fall and are built again, and those that build them again are gay." (Yeats)
31. "Water, water everywhere / Nor any drop to drink."

PART C : *Native Son* by Richard Wright



This novel is readily available in paperback on Amazon, used book sellers and in the public library system.

Read leisurely but thoroughly, annotating anything you find interesting or significant. Focus your annotation on the big ideas listed below.

CHARACTER

- Characters in literature allow the readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases and cultural norms represented by those characters.

SETTING

- Settings and details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.

STRUCTURE

- The arrangement of the parts and sections of the text, the relationship of the parts to each other, and the sequence in which the text reveals information are all structural choices made by a writer that contribute to a reader's interpretation of a text.

NARRATION

- A narrator's or speaker's perspective controls the details and emphasizes that affect how readers experience and interpret a text.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text. Note the function of figurative language (word choice, imagery, symbols, metaphors and many more complex devices).

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT THE OPENING OF SCHOOL?

Your handwritten note cards for the Stories and Allusions project are due on the first full block day of class. See rubric below.

Grading Rubric for Stories and Allusion Cards

Score	Descriptor
A	Excellent in every way, filled with thoughtful commentary using extensive evidence. Satisfies all the requirements and more.
B	A good card. Satisfies all requirements. Effective and thoughtful commentary on content or meaning.
C	An adequate card: perhaps thin on word requirements and/or depth Over-simplified analysis
D	Little evidence of effort and thought. A "lazy card."
F	No card or does not meet requirements in any way

Thanks to IB English teachers Janet Conner and Christine Thompson for developing this project.

You will be required to participate in a Socratic Seminar on **Native Son** and write an AP Literature style argumentative essay in the opening weeks of school.

Enjoy your summer and your peripatetic literary travels. We look forward to meeting you all in August. Start the 2024 - 25 school year prepared and ready.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY OF YOUR AP LITERATURE TEACHERS BELOW

Travis Boldon - tboldon@dadeschools.net

Sylvia Carro - sacarro@dadeschools.net