

12th GRADE

Level(s): AP Literature and Composition

1. Students should read the two required texts below.
2. Students should keep a reading journal on each text and be prepared to turn both journals in on the first day of school. In each journal students should discuss the structure and form of the text, development of narrative voice, effective use of literary devices (such as diction, syntax, detail, tone, and imagery), themes and passages that develop those themes.
3. Students should write an expository essay with the following prompt and directions in mind and be prepared to turn it in on the first day of school.
 - a. Prompt: Compare and contrast the way each novel explores the psychological effects of oppression and a person vs. society conflict. Students may want to pay attention (but not be limited) to motifs of power-how characters struggle to free themselves from the power of others or seek to gain power over others-, the topic of superiority vs. inferiority, and the search for individual identity.
 - b. The essay should consist of 1000-1500-words, include a strong thesis statement, and use direct references to both novels as support for all arguments. The essay must follow MLA guidelines: Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spacing, 1-inch margins, in-text citations, and a Works Cited page.
4. In addition to the assessments listed above, there will be graded discussions on both texts during the first two weeks of school.

Fiction Texts: REQUIRED Reads

*May contain sensitive content / L = Lexile measurement



Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison*

The tale of a nightmare journey across the racial divide tells unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators. As he journeys from the Deep South to the street and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. (950L)



Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf*

Mrs. Dalloway takes place over the course of a single day in a woman's life in 1920's London. There are flowers to buy, outfits to choose, but also a visit from a past lover, and the tragic fate of a young war veteran who cannot adjust to life in post-war London. Virginia Woolf's supple and mesmerizing account of an ordinary day draws the reader into the minds, perceptions, and emotions of an astonishingly varied and vivid cast of characters. Woolf reminds us that each day, hour, and even minute of our lives harbors the potential to transform us and those around us. (950L)