**C:\Users\kra002227\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NQTIN9EZ\MC900236584[1].wmf Winter Reading 2014-2015**

**AP English Language and Composition**

Oh, the weather outside is frightful…. So what better plan than getting your best blankie, a cup of tea or cocoa, your comfy lounge wear and settling in to read a great piece of American Literature? Nothing, I say!

Choose one of the following books to read over winter break:

* The Color Purple by Alice Walker (1982)
  + Set in rural Georgia in the late 1930s, the book focuses on the development of Celie who has been brutally abused all her childhood. Contains sex, violence, and some language.
* The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath (1963)
  + Set in New York City in the early 1950s, the book focuses on the college years of Esther who has won a modeling scholarship but finds herself clinically depressed. Contains some sex and violence.
* The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)
  + Set in New York City in the 1920s, the book focuses on a group of characters who know the mysterious Jay Gatsby.
* The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger (1951)
  + The main action of the book takes place in New York City during December 1949; the book focuses on the developments in Holden Caufield’s life which have led him to be in a mental institution from which he is relating his story. Contains language and references to sex and violence.
* The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway[[1]](#footnote-1) (1926)
  + Set in Paris and Spain in the 1920s, the book focuses on Jake Barnes and American expatriate friends. Contains fishing scenes and bullfighting. ☺
* Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (1952)
* The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.
* Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass (1845)
* Frederick Douglass, an ex-slave, was one of the most important abolitionists and civil rights advocates during the 19th century.
* Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya (1973)
* Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will test the bonds that tie him to his people, and discover himself in the pagan past, in his father's wisdom, and in his mother's Catholicism. And at each life turn there is Ultima, who delivered Tony into the world-and will nurture the birth of his soul.
* The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck, 1939
* First published in 1939, Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.
* The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, 1884
* Written after seven long years of effort, it captures the longing of the American Spirit as channeled through the eyes of young Huck, a boy caught between a society he detests and the dreams of freedom he envisions for himself. He meets up with the escaped slave Jim, and together they journey through scenes of farce and cruelty in this satire of racism and narrow-mindedness in pre-Civil War America.
* Slaughterhouse V by Kurt Vonnegut, 1969
  + is a [satirical novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satire) by [Kurt Vonnegut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_Vonnegut) about [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) experiences and [journeys through time](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_travel) of a soldier named [Billy Pilgrim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Pilgrim). It is generally recognized as Vonnegut's most influential and popular work.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slaughterhouse-Five#cite_note-1)Vonnegut's use of the [firebombing of Dresden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Dresden_in_World_War_II), Germany, as a central event makes the novel semi-autobiographical, as he was present during the bombing.
* Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston 1937
  + The novel narrates main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny."[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Their_Eyes_Were_Watching_God#cite_note-1) As a young woman, who is fair-skinned with long hair, she expects more out of life, but comes to realize that people must learn about life 'fuh theyselves' (for themselves), just as people can only go to God for themselves. Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received, but today, it has come to be regarded as a seminal work in both [African-American literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American_literature) and [women's literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_writing_in_English).
* Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
* Published in 1932, it propounds that economic chaos and unemployment will cause a radical reaction in the form of an international scientific empire that manufactures its citizens in the laboratory on a eugenic basis, without the need for human intercourse. Set in a future London, it follows the fortunes of the illegitimate son of a senior governor, who has grown up in America, outside the new empire, and who experiences a dramatic culture-clash when he has to live under its rules. The novel anticipates developments in [reproductive technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reproductive_technology), [sleep-learning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleep-learning), [psychological manipulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_manipulation" \o "Psychological manipulation), and [classical conditioning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_conditioning).
* Animal Farm by George Orwell 1945–think of this as 1984 lite.
* To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper 1960
  + LeeTo Kill a Mockingbird is primarily a novel about growing up under extraordinary circumstances in the 1930s in the Southern United States. The story covers a span of three years, during which the main characters undergo significant changes.
* The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls
  + The book recounts the unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing Walls and her siblings had at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents.

1. The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to his place where he arose.—Ecclesiastes 1:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)