

Summer Reading

AP LIT & COMP

Complete by Monday, August 31, 2026

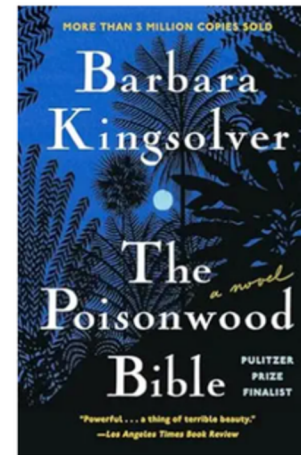
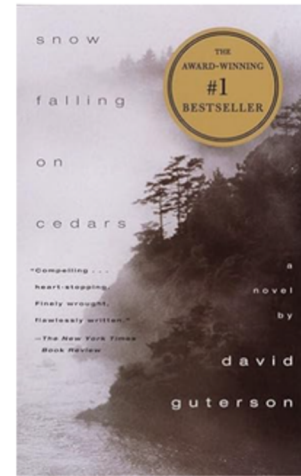
These summer assignments are designed to prepare you for the reading, thinking and writing in AP Lit this coming school year. We will spend some time with fiction, poetry, and drama.

✦ **POETRY:** Read poems of your choice. Bring printed copies of three of your favorites to class on August 31/September 1.

✦ **DRAMA:** Watch a play. Go see a summer production at any of Utah's wonderful community theaters or attend a professionally produced play. If going to a live event is not possible, see the reverse side for viewing-at-home options.

✦ **FICTION:** Choose from one of these novels. Keep a journal. Annotate if you own the book. These books are all coming-of-age stories which are widely regarded by critics and scholars as having literary merit. Additionally, these books are by an author or feature a main character whose life experiences and background are likely different than yours. The reading journal is due September 4. See the reverse side for more details.

All of these texts have been approved for this course by the JSD Literature Selection Committee. A crucial focus of any literary course is exploring various viewpoints and the complexities of the human experience. Please research your title before selecting it.



Complete all 3 assignments

Assignment A

Read fiction!

1. Select one title from the list (choose a book that you have not read before):

- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson
- *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

2. Read the book thoughtfully. Annotate as you read (if you own it) and keep a journal. Your journal may be in any hand-written style, but should include evidence of 'The Big 6' and your own commentary. If you have never kept a dialectical journal before, do a quick internet search for some examples. You should average one journal entry per 10-15 pages. You may turn in the journal any time between August 18 and September 4.

The Big Six

tone	conflict
diction	characterization
imagery	point of view

Assignment B

Read poetry! Subscribe to or periodically visit the Poem of the Day page of The Poetry Foundation. Alternately, find some poetry collections (one poet) or anthologies (many poets) and spend some time just enjoying poetry. Plan on bringing printed copies of three poems to share the week of August 31.

Poem of the Day from
The Poetry Foundation



Assignment C

Watch a play! Summer is a great time to go see live theater. There are all kinds of wonderful community productions with low ticket prices, as well as Utah's fine professional companies. Find one and enjoy! Write up a few notes so that you can talk about it the week of August 31.

If seeing something live is not possible, choose from a list of professional recordings of Shakespearean plays.

Drama Resources

