

# *Summer Reading Assignment - AP Literature & Composition 2021-2022*

*Ms. Saadeh*

This will be a year filled with reading and writing – and your ability to bring your original ideas on both concepts to the class. This assignment will give you an opportunity to showcase your skills, while acting as a starting point for improvement throughout the year. Please read and complete the following assignment; bring it to the first day of class. **Note:** In order to have a successful first marking period and school year, completion of this is vital. Failure to do so will place your first marking period grade in serious jeopardy. For the first two weeks of September you will be using your annotated copy of the short story to discuss in small groups and then together as a class. Afterwards, you will write an in class essay. Please email me at [ssaadeh@rahway.net](mailto:ssaadeh@rahway.net) if you have any questions. Good luck, have a great summer, and see you next year!

Choose two short stories from the list below. On the first day of school, you must have a printed copy of each story. As you read, annotate the short story by writing on the printed document itself. Think of annotation as showing your work while reading. Using a pen, pencil, and/or a highlighter, mark up your paper with as much commentary as you can. As you read, consider the following strategies:

- **Have a conversation with the text:**
  - React to the story as it's happening
  - Argue a point in the story (character's decisions, thoughts, conflict, etc.)
  - Support a character in the story (decisions, thoughts, feelings, etc.)
- **Observations to make about the author's writing:**
  - Word choice that you believe is important to the work
  - Images that stand out to you
  - Themes you can understand after reading
  - Key scenes that you believe are relevant to the story
  - Parts of the plot that catch your attention
  - Literary devices you can identify in the text
- **Notes and symbols to use while annotating:**
  - Underlining and highlighting
  - Question mark **?**; exclamation mark **!** while reacting
  - Bracket **[ ]** important ideas, lines, sentences, paragraphs, etc.
  - Arrows and lines to connect ideas from different parts of the story
  - Star or asterisk **\*** for especially significant parts

**\*\*Synopses and links to the short stories found on the following page \*\***

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***Araby* by James Joyce** -- A young boy in Ireland is obsessed with the girl living across the street. When the young girl mentions how badly she wants to attend a certain bazaar, he sees an opportunity to win her heart by attending the bazaar himself and bringing her back a gift. Read the short story here:

[Araby by James Joyce](#)

***Another Evening at the Club* by Alifa Rifaat** -- Samia and Abood Bey are a married couple living in Egypt. Although an arranged marriage, Samia is seemingly happy in her relationship. Tensions arise when Samia loses her precious emerald ring and is afraid to confess this truth to Abood. Instead, she does something that will change everyone's life. Read the short story here:

[Another Evening at the Club by Alifa Rifaat](#)

***The War Prayer* by Mark Twain** -- A town is incredibly happy as they prepare for war. While in church, the townspeople are praising soldiers and praying for a victorious outcome. A suspicious messenger appears and the prayer he brings is different from the one the townspeople originally asked for. Read the short story here:

[The War Prayer by Mark Twain](#)

***I Stand Here Ironing* by Tillie Olsen** -- The narrator is a remarried mother of five children who remembers the way she parented her first child, Emily. An unidentified character wants to discuss Emily's need for help. The narrator is ironing the entire time as she reflects on Emily's childhood and herself as a mother. Read the short story here:

[I Stand Here Ironing by Tillie Olsen](#)

***Lamb to the Slaughter* by Roald Dahl** -- Patrick and Mary Maloney are a married couple expecting their first child. Everything seems perfect on Mary's end, but Patrick has something to confess. Mary is clearly unhappy with what Patrick tells her, and events ensue that result in Mary speaking to police officers about what happened that night. Read the short story here:

[Lamb to the Slaughter by Roald Dahl](#)

***\*\*You must use your Rahway school account to access the short stories\*\****