Advanced Placement Literature & Composition will be a year filled with reading and writing – and your ability to bring your original ideas on both concepts to the class. This summer reading 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 the summer reading assignment is vital. Failure to do so will place your first marking period grade in serious jeopardy.* Good luck, have a great summer, and see you next year!

Read the two selected novels: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. You do not have to buy the books; you can borrow them from the public library. For each piece of literature, fill out the Major Works Data Sheet and choose four events you found to be the most significant. These events could be actual things that happened; they can also be thoughts, feelings, ideas, realizations, etc. These events also must have had an impact on you – as a reader, and also, as a human being.

Your assignment is to write a one page (front side only) journal entry for each event. You are to respond personally to the characters, as if they are real. How do you feel about them? How do you feel about the event itself? How has reading this novel/play changed how you view human nature? Ultimately, this exercise is for you to understand that it’s not only enough to read the literature; you must connect with it and respond/react to it. Take this opportunity to put your thoughts and opinions on paper, as you will be discussing your thoughts and opinions throughout the upcoming year. Your only requirement to yourself is to make sure your point of view is expressed and also supported. Make sure the ideas you write can be supported by things that were said, thought, or done in the literature.

In total, you will have ten pages to bring on the first day of school, one data sheet and four journal entries for each novel. You will read and respond to two works: *Invisible Man* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. All work is to be typed or very neatly handwritten.

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**Book Synopses**

*Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison*

An unnamed narrator tells the reader he is an “invisible man” because people refuse to see him. He lives underground stealing electricity and listening to jazz. He describes growing up in a black community in the south, briefly attending college before getting expelled, and moving to New York where he becomes a prominent member of the Harlem branch of “the brotherhood.”

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain*

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**Example Journal Entry**

**Novel – To Kill a Mockingbird**  
**Event – Atticus’ choice to defend Tom Robinson (Chapter 8)**  
**Journal Entry – I was surprised to see a white man from the south take on such a responsibility, as to defend a black man, in such a racist setting. This event proves that not every person can be stereotyped. It also shows that even in the most hateful of times, there is the possibility of hope and respect that can be found in people...**

*Make sure your entries are on one page each.*
A young boy, Huck, searches for freedom and adventure on the shores of the Mississippi River. After being kidnapped by Pap, Huck escapes, finds a canoe, and runs away. He comes across Jim, an escaped slave, and together they journey down the river in search of freedom.

Major Works Data Sheet

1. Title of work:
Author:
Date of publication:
Genre: (The novel may fit into a number of genres. Choose one.)

2. Characteristics of the genre:

3. Provide information about the time period. (Write one paragraph. Cite the source of your information.)

4. Major Characters- Choose two or three major characters and respond to the following:
   a. Character’s name and role:
   b. Significance (Why is this character significant to the story?)
   c. Three adjectives that describe this character.
   d. Supporting Passage- Include one important passages and cite the page number.

5. Describe the setting(s) and explain its significance.

6. What is the significance of the ending/closing scene? (1-2 paragraph response)

7. Themes (List at least three.):

8. Write an introductory paragraph to one of the following AP questions. (Include the question and the year.)

2005. In Kate Chopin’s The Awakening (1899), protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess “That outward existence which conforms, the inward life that questions.” Identify a character who outwardly conforms while questioning inwardly. Then write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid mere plot summary.

2007, Form B. Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a novel or play that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
1995. Writers often highlight the values of a culture of a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a play or novel in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character’s alienation reveals the surrounding society’s assumptions and moral values.