

Grovetown High School  
Mrs. Feeney  
AP 407-408: Summer Reading Program

**Overview/Syllabus:** Keep these things in mind as you prepare to become a senior, Advanced Placement student.

- **The AP summer reading/writing requirement is NOT optional.** Students must read four major works, write a detailed journal on the selections, and be prepared for content assessment, analysis, and discussion immediately after the beginning of the fall semester.
- **Students are encouraged to purchase their own books** so that they can read, notate, and keep a reaction journal. If that is not possible, local libraries have these selections. Furthermore, three of these texts are online (see web addresses below), although purchasing the text is considerably cheaper than a printer cartridge. See Mrs. Feeney at HHS or Mrs. Buchanan at GBH if the student has book acquisition issues.

**Assigned Texts:**

- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles (496 BC-406 BC)  
([http://www.ancient-mythology.com/greek/oedipus\\_rex.php](http://www.ancient-mythology.com/greek/oedipus_rex.php))  
This drama, once a part of a tetralogy by Sophocles, is considered a prototype of classical tragedy. The writer's treatment/concept of the genre, and in particular the protagonist as tragic hero, is a yard stick by which all subsequent writers of tragedy have been measured.
- *The Tragedy of Macbeth* by William Shakespeare  
(<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>)  
A masterpiece of Renaissance drama and the tragic form, this play was written in 1605. Just as Sophocles articulates the classic tragic form and hero, Shakespeare reshapes and expands the reader's grasp of both.
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
([www.literaturepage.com/read/prideandprejudice.html](http://www.literaturepage.com/read/prideandprejudice.html))  
The Romantic literary movement produced no finer piece of writing than Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Published in 1813, this "dance" of a novel cuts a portrait of rural life, human misperceptions, and subtle satire.
- *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor  
(No available online source found)  
In her first novel, published in 1952, O'Connor paints a grotesque portrait of dysfunctional Southern eccentrics who still have an appetite for faith, love, and acceptance.

Assignment: Reaction Journal

- Select five passages from each text that support the stated topic. On accompanying sheets copy each passage, place a parenthetical citation after the passage to identify its location in the text, and give your detailed interpretation of the passage as it pertains to the topic. Make sure all passages span the play or novel.

1. Passages from *Oedipus the King/Oedipus Rex*: Identify, copy, and cite five significant passages from different parts of the play that reveal Sophocles' view of man's character. Does he see man as heroic, flawed, or both? How does he define the classic hero? In your interpretation, be specific, detailed, and expansive.

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(continue on as many additional sheets as necessary)

2. Passages from *The Tragedy of MacBeth*: Identify, copy, and cite five significant passages from different parts of the play that reveal Shakespeare's view of man's character. Does he see man as heroic, flawed, or both? Is Shakespeare's definition the same or different than that articulated by Sophocles? In your interpretation, be specific, detailed, and expansive.

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3. Passages from *Pride and Prejudice*: Identify, copy, and cite five significant passages from different parts of the novel that reveal Jane Austen's view of how individual behaviors are driven by prejudice. In your interpretation, be specific, detailed, and expansive.

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(continue on as many additional sheets as necessary)

4. Passages from *Wise Blood*: Identify, copy, and cite five significant passages from different parts of the novel that reveal Flannery O'Connor's view of individuals who do not belong to established parts of society. What do these people reveal about the society in which they live? In your interpretation be specific, detailed, and expansive.

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