

**Mrs. Mancuso**  
**AP Literature Summer Assignment**

Dear AP English Literature Student,

Enclosed you will find a copy of the required summer literature essay. By the time you have returned to school, it will be expected that you will have completed reading *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad, and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. The topic for your writing response is a good example of the type of writing required for the AP English Exam next spring. The writing assignment is due the Friday you return back to school in September.

Please remember that you will be required to purchase these two texts on your own. One advantage to this is that you will be able to mark up the text as you read.

While reading these two novels you will also have two literature assignments to complete. **First, you need to pull ten quotes from your reading of each novel and record them in the form of a T-chart with the quote of your choosing recorded on one side (including page number) of the paper while reserving the other side for an explanation of its significance/meaning to the text.** These will be shared with the class in a discussion seminar in September, as well as function as a form of prewriting for your final paper. **Second, you should look up some printed biographical information about the authors from each novel.**

Failure to complete the summer assignments will lead to the removal from the course. As a reminder, taking the Advanced Placement Literature course means that you are required to sit for the Advanced Placement Literature test, which takes place in the spring. (The cost of the test is approximately 95.00 dollars.)

Additional texts to be used in the AP English Course:

- *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- *The Crucible*
- *The Color Purple*
- *Selected Poetry*
- *The Inferno*
- *Hamlet*
- *Candide*

Thank you,  
Mrs. Mancuso

(Essay assignment listed on next page)

*(You may choose one of our summer texts to write your essay. Please be sure that you have a typed rough draft with visual revisions to go along with the submission of your final draft.)*

#### Free-Response Prompt

In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Write an essay in which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim.