

AP Literature  
Summer reading List  
Mr. Hewitt

**You must read all three books in their entirety and be prepared to discuss them intelligently in class in September. You must also be prepared to work on assignments relating to any – or all- three of these books in September of 2017. At this point, you are familiar with the conventions of writing; therefore, I am looking for the following:**

**All essays must be typed in Times New Roman 12 font and double-spaced. Each essay is worth 50 points.**

The following essays must be turned into Mr. Hewitt on TurnItIn.com by September 3<sup>rd</sup> 8pm. Here's the following information for TurnItIn:

- Class ID: 15347911
- Enrollment Key: HewittAP

**Book 1:** *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

It's the story of a Scottish General who is told by three witches that he will one day become king. Macbeth is consumed by ambition and forced into action by his wife in a murderous rampage. Of course, keeping the throne is harder than achieving it.

One of the strongest human drives seems to be the will to power. Write a 3-page essay in which you explain how Macbeth and Lady Macbeth struggle to either free themselves or seek to gain power over others. Be sure to explain how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the overall theme of the work.

**Book 2:** *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

As if the story isn't tragic enough, *Beloved* is loosely based on actual events. Margaret Garner, a runaway slave from Kentucky who escaped her husband and four children to Ohio in 1856, is presented as Sethe; whose name was changed by Morrison for reasons we will have to investigate. In this novel the language is amorphous, and written in stream of consciousness. Stream of consciousness, as the name suggests, is meant to reflect the protagonist's thought process. This stylistic choice by Morrison muddles the reader's comprehension at times, while also making a strong statement about the role of language in the story. *Beloved* is told in third person omniscient, but also from a switching third person limited perspective. This is a rather unusual writing strategy by an author, so your job is to write a 3-page essay in which you analyze Toni Morrison's use of multiple-points of view, including third-person omniscient narrator, and it's relation to the novel's major themes.

Book 3: The Endarkenment by Jeffrey McDaniel

This book of poems by the irreverent, sometimes vulgar, and sometimes comedic Brooklyn poet, is titled after an anti-intellectualism movement of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century that emphasized the use of illogic to scrutinize previously accepted traditions and doctrines and that brought about many humanitarian disasters. That seems like an odd topic for a poetry book, doesn't it? Well, I want you to write a 3-page essay (didn't see that one coming did you?) in which you explain how McDaniel's poetry acts as a form of protest or illuminating lens for the age of Endarkenment. What are these anti-intellectual ideas he's protesting? What previously held traditions are under attack in the age of Endarkenment and how does McDaniel shed light on these topics through his poetry? One last thing, when you pull quotes from McDaniel's poetry to support your claims, be sure to also mention how he uses figurative language, imagery, and humor to develop these ideas.