

## AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Essay Assignments

For **each** required reading, please choose one of the two essay options and write a well-constructed, cohesive academic style (5 paragraph) essay response. There isn't a page minimum or maximum for either assignment; however, you should be thorough while not taking more than an hour to complete each prompt as they are designed to prepare you for the rigor of the timed AP exam next May. Do NOT summarize the work.

### Essay #1 – **Antigone** by Sophocles

#### Choice A:

Write an essay in which you present arguments for and against the work's relevance for a person living in modern times. Your own position should emerge through the course of the response.

#### Choice B:

The conflict created when the will of an individual opposes the will of the majority is the recurring theme of many great works. Identify a character who is in opposition to his or her society, analyze the conflict and discuss the moral and ethical implications for both the individual and the society.

### Essay #2 – **The Awakening** by Kate Chopin

#### Choice A:

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience. In *The Awakening*, consider which character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character's birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character's experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

#### Choice B:

In many works of literature, a main character has a mentor or mentor-like acquaintance whose influence dramatically changes how the character views not only himself or herself, but the world as well. In *The Awakening*, consider if a mentor exhibits such a strong influence, either beneficial or harmful, on one of the main characters. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss the nature of the mentor's influence and its significance to the work as a whole.