

Summer Reading Guide to AP Language & Composition for students entering into AP Language 11th Grade

Materials you will need

1. Copy of *The Poisonwood Bible* - by Barbara Kingsolver
2. Copy of The Bible (Kings James Version) or if you do not have a bible then you can use the following on-line resources at www.biblegateway.com or www.bible.com

Assignment

1. *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver, makes extensive use of allusions, especially Biblical allusions. As an educated reader of literature, you should be able to not only recognize allusions, but also be able to explain how the allusion is being used. Read the following chapters/verses (ideally in King James Version).

- Psalms 23, 66, 100, 121, and 137,
- Genesis 1-3, 4:1-16, 6-9, 11:1-9, 12:1-9, 13, 16-19, 21, 22:1-19
- Exodus 1-14, 19, 20:1-21,
- Ruth 1-4,
- Job 1-4, 38-42,
- Matthew 1-3, 4:1-11, 5-7, 13, 15:29-39, 26-28,
- Revelation 21-22

If you do not have a Bible to use as a resource, <http://www.biblegateway.com> has free downloadable versions. (The first number is the chapter number; the number after the colon is the verse number. So "Genesis 1-4:16" means read all of chapters 1 through 3 and also verses 1-16 of chapter 4.)

2. Annotate your copy of *The Poisonwood Bible* thoroughly as you read (obviously, you should own your own copy of the novel). Use Post-its if you are using a borrowed copy. Suggestions for things you should be annotating and responding to in your text:

- Which characters you identify with and why.
- Kingsolver's uses allusions, Biblical and others.
- Words that are new to you – define.
- How Kingsolver uses symbols and motifs.
- How Kingsolver uses literary devices.
- Character descriptions – how does Kingsolver portray them?
- Themes and patterns that become evident to you.
- Passages that interest you, anger you, make you laugh, etc.
- Connections you make to your life or to other works of art.
- General comments.
- Questions you have.
- Absolutely anything else that occurs to you!

3. Ponder and be prepared to discuss the following from *The Poisonwood Bible* :

- The significance of setting (time, place, etc)
- The idea of perspective and point of view
- The difference between telling one's story as it unfolds and telling it from memory
- Allegory and the symbolic roles of characters
- The role of the US in the politics of Congo
- What do you find difficult or appealing about Kingsolver's technique?
- How does it connect to other works of literature you've read?
- And the all important question: The larger message/meaning of the novel – what do you think Kingsolver wants us to understand?

4. Summer Reading Essay – Due the 2nd Week of school

The Poisonwood Bible displays a unique arrangement of external and internal conflicts, many of which can never be resolved. Many of these conflicts are often the result of guilt, cowardice, or regret. Choose a major conflict within the novel and write a well-developed 2 page, 12-point, Times New Roman font essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict, and then explain how the conflict contributes to the overall meaning of the work.

- Congo vs. Belgium
- Father vs. Daughter
- Father vs. Congo
- Leah vs. Adah's disease
- Orleana vs. Nathan
- Black vs. White
- Spirituality vs. Religion
- Leah vs. Religion
- Mother vs. her conscience

If you have any questions then you can contact me over the summer at Lorman@harmonytx.org. I will get back with you within a week (I need to have a vacation also).

**Acknowledgement of Receipt Summer Reading Guide to
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for students entering into AP Language 11th Grade**

I have read and agree to comply with all policies set forth in this assignment.

Student Name (Print): _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

This form must be signed and returned on or before Friday, May 28th 2010.