

English AP: Literature and Composition  
Mrs. Robbins

*In electing to take the AP English class, you are accepting a challenge, and this challenge begins with the summer assignment.*

This advanced placement literature and writing course is structured around the critical analysis of major literary works. Consistent, thoughtful, and vigorous participation is essential for success. It is through serious and focused discussions that you will learn to effectively analyze and evaluate what you read, and it is through excellent writing that you will be able to communicate these ideas.

You are expected to make meaningful connections that not only demonstrate your understanding of the literature, but also reveal your insights as to how that literature relates to larger issues, historically, culturally, socially, politically, and philosophically.

This is a college level course and the expectations are high.

Reading Assignment:

*The Life of Pi* [Yann Martel]

*The Odyssey* [Richard Fagles translation]

*Pride and Prejudice* [Jane Austen]

Writing Assignment 1: *The Life of Pi* and *The Odyssey*

1. Create five questions that are worth exploring [and arguing over] during a class discussion. Do not ask concrete questions; instead, reach for abstract and overarching concepts. Be prepared to present your questions to the class.
2. Choose one of your own deep questions to answer in a 2-3 page typed essay.  
The essay must connect both works in a meaningful way.

The essay must be typed, Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced.

Type your name, your class, the date, and my name in the upper left hand corner.

Underline your thesis statement.

Staple the pages together.

Writing Assignment 2: *Pride and Prejudice*

1. Consider the opening sentence of the work. What “universally acknowledged” truths are relevant now to a discussion of relationships? Briefly explain your modern reworking of this famous first line.
2. Consider the views about marriage expressed (or implied) by such diverse characters as Charlotte, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Elizabeth, Darcy, et al. Discuss three characters’ points of view about marriage, and explain how these views are relevant [or not] to marriage and mores today.

*A word of caution: Do not depend on any of the film versions of Pride and Prejudice. I've seen them all; they will lead you astray. On the other hand, these movies are [mostly] terrific, and you are encouraged to critically view any or all after you have read the book.*

The first assignment must be emailed [or delivered to my mailbox] no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The second assignment is due the first day of school.

You may email the work to me at [robbinsl@kinnelon.org](mailto:robbinsl@kinnelon.org).

If you have any questions, please email me.

This assignment is required for entry into this class.

Do not attempt to write this assignment the day before it is due. Last minute problems with printers, etc. will not be acceptable excuses.

Bring a hard copy to class on the first day.

Bring all three books on the first day of school.

Have a wonderful summer, and don't forget to think deep thoughts.

Mrs. Robbins

Summer Assignment: British Literature