



AP ENGLISH

Summer Reading and Writing Guidelines

You have 3 books to enjoy this summer – *Candide* and *East of Eden* plus a novel of your choice. *Candide* is a satirical romp through the world, and *East of Eden* is a sweeping saga of brothers and families – John Steinbeck’s self-chosen masterpiece. Enjoy reading them!

For your writing, rather than following the writing requirements of the general summer reading list, please complete the following:

Essay #1 – After reading *East of Eden*, ponder the relationship between Cal and Aron. Then write an essay examining what you think is the most important aspect defining their relationship. (P.S. – If you have knowledge of Cain and Abel from the *Bible*, yes, this relationship is a literary parallel.)

Essay #2 – After reading *Candide*, look up *utopia*. Using the definition you find, explain how and why this word applies to the novel.

For essays #1 and #2, follow these writing guidelines:

1. The most important aspect of these essays is evidence of your interpretive abilities, which means NO PLOT SUMMARY beyond what is necessary to prove your points.
2. Type and print out your essays.
3. Use sufficient textual support with citations to prove your ideas.
4. Straighten out your grammar (I’ll be checking!).

Essay #3 – For your choice novel, please follow the guidelines written at the top of the general summer reading list. This book review does not need to follow the writing guidelines above.