

Fredericksburg Academy
AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Assignment 2018

Our summer reading philosophy at FA is simple: people who read continuously become better readers and writers. Further, for AP English and the AP exam, the more significant texts a student has under his or her belt the better. With this in mind, AP students will read a book in common and a book of their choice.

The Choice Book:

Read a book of your choice that is at least 175 pages; this book *may not* be required for another class. Write a reflection for this book. This essay should be a reaction to and interpretation of the book with minimal plot summary. This assignment will be graded for effort and will be your first assignment of the first semester.

If you wish to read an additional choice book and write an additional book reflection you may earn extra points.

The Required Text:

All AP students must read and annotate John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*. For this novel, you should write an essay responding to **one** of the following prompts. You must make specific, purposeful, cited reference to the text, but you should avoid mere plot summary. This will be your second assignment of the first semester and will be graded based on [this rubric](#).

- Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. In a well-written essay about *East of Eden*, analyze the nature of a betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
- Many writers use a country setting to establish values within a work of literature. For example, the country may be a place of virtue and peace or one of primitivism and ignorance. Write an essay about *East of Eden* in which you analyze how the country setting functions in the work as a whole.
- The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Write a well-organized essay about *East of Eden* in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.