



# **Travis B. Bryan High School**

Prospective AP Student:

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! The purpose of College Board Advanced Placement courses is to prepare students for college work and/or AP exams that give students the opportunity to receive college credit; therefore, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers who are able to prioritize their time and have parental support in their educational endeavors. You will read a novel and write some responses this summer chosen specifically for AP Language and Composition students. All works are considered college appropriate.

Have *The Great Gatsby* read and the writing assignments completed by the FIRST DAY of school. We will begin the school year with these selections. Cliff's Notes and/or the movie version will offer little or no support for the deep analysis of characters and literary devices necessary at this level, so please do not try to substitute them for the reading. The main objectives of this course are analytical skills and composition skills, so it is imperative that you read and respond well to what is assigned.

## **Summer Reading:**

***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald--You will need to highlight the text and make margin notes--ask questions, make note of the use of language, make connections, comment on characters, etc. If you are unable to make annotations in the book, you must write your annotations on separate paper. Annotations will be worth one daily grade. The writing assignments to be completed with the summer reading are as follows:**

### **Summer Reading Assignment #1--AP Language and Composition**

While you read *The Great Gatsby*, find 12-15 quotes that refer to the American Dream; quotes must be scattered throughout the book (no more than 3 per chapter). Write or type the quotes and page numbers in correct MLA format (see owl.english.purdue.edu). This assignment is worth two daily grades and these quotes will be used for evidence in an analytical essay on the novel.

## **Summer Reading Assignment #2—AP Language and Composition**

After reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, for each of the questions below, write a well-organized, well-developed paragraph of at least 8 sentences. Avoid short, choppy sentences.

1. American Dream. (Hint: Research the term "American Dream" if you are unsure about it.)
2. Is what Gatsby feels for Daisy love, obsession, affection, or accumulation/objectification? What is Fitzgerald's message here?
3. Who is the real person: Jay Gatsby or Jimmy Gatz? Does he become "the Platonic conception of himself"? What does that mean? Is it a peculiarly American phenomenon?
4. Discuss the novel's theme that the American Dream is corrupted by the desire for wealth. What does the novel and its theme offer about the American identity?
5. Argue who is the most admirable character and who is the most despicable character in the novel. Use specific examples to support your position.

If you have questions, YOU SHOULD contact Mrs. Foreman at [whitney.foreman@bryanisd.org](mailto:whitney.foreman@bryanisd.org).

Have a relaxing summer and come back ready to work!