

AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Assignment 2008

1. Read The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho.
2. Research the meaning of a new genre in literature, magical realism and write a one page explanation of magical realism and its relevance in literature.
3. In a well-written typed essay respond to the following prompt based on The Alchemist:
Discuss the meaning of the following quotation and then relate it to three specific choices that the boy made in The Alchemist that had a profound effect on his destiny:
"Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved."
William Jennings Bryan
4. Complete a careful reading of The Mayor of Casterbridge, by Thomas Hardy.
5. In a well-written typed essay respond to the following prompt based on The Mayor of Casterbridge:

Choose a complex and important character in a novel or play of recognized literary merit who might - on the basis of the character's actions alone - be considered evil or immoral. In a well-organized essay, explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might. Avoid plot summary.

For both essays, use the following AP rubric. Both essays should be in MLA format.

Top Scores 9-8	These are well-written papers which respond fully to the question asked. The best papers show a full understanding of the issues and support their points with appropriate textual evidence and examples. Writers of these essays demonstrate stylistic maturity by an effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. The writing need not be without flaws, but it should reveal the writer's ability to choose from and control a wide range of elements of effective writing.
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<p>Upper Scores 7-6</p>	<p>These essays also respond correctly to the questions asked but do so less fully or less effectively than the essays in the top range. Their discussion may be less thorough and less specific. These essays are well-written in an appropriate style but reveal less maturity than the top papers. They do make use of textual evidence to support their points. Some lapses in diction or syntax may appear, but the writing demonstrates sufficient control over the elements of composition to present the writer's ideas clearly.</p>
<p>Middle Score 5</p>	<p>These essays respond to the question, but the comments may be simplistic or imprecise; they may be overly generalized, vague, or inadequately supported. These essays are adequately written, but may demonstrate inconsistent control over the elements of composition. Organization is attempted, but it may not be fully realized or particularly effective.</p>
<p>Lower Scores 4-3</p>	<p>These essays attempt to deal with the question, but do so either inaccurately or without support or specific evidence. They may show some misunderstanding or omit pertinent analysis. The writing can convey the writer's ideas, but it reveals weak control over diction, syntax, organization. These essays may contain excessive and distracting spelling and grammatical errors. Statements are seldom supported with specific or persuasive evidence, or inappropriately lengthy quotations may replace discussion and analysis.</p>
<p>Lowest Scores 2-1</p>	<p>These essays fail to respond adequately to the question. They may reveal misunderstanding or may distort the interpretation. They compound the problems of the Lower Score papers. Generally these essays are unacceptably brief or poorly written. Although some attempts to answer the question may be indicated, the writer's view has little clarity and only slight, if any, evidence in its support.</p>

These assignments are due the day that you return to school in the fall. Expect to be tested on the novels in addition to the essays.