**AP Literature & Composition**

**Summer Assignment 2018**

**A. Wicks**

**Part I:** Write a Reader Profile. Before you begin the reading assignment for this summer, craft a well written profile of yourself as a reader and writer. What are your strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing? What purposes does reading and writing serve for you? What are your passions and peeves? Be as honest and forthcoming as you possibly can. This portion of the assignment should be no more than 200 words, typed, printed, and **submitted on the first day of school**.

**Part II:**  **Read John Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany*.** This title has appeared as a suggested choice for Question #3 on the AP Literature exam multiple times, meaning that Irving’s novel is of **literary merit**.

**What characterizes “a work of literary merit”?**

A Work of Literary Merit . . .

. . . has a distinctive voice and style

. . . raises social concerns

. . . moves from the particular to the universal

. . . has layered complexity and ambiguity

. . . deals with basic universal truths

**READ ACTIVELY!--**You are not *required* to submit a reading log or notes, but you are very strongly encouraged to make notes in whichever way is most comfortable for you: that may be using post-its, actually writing inside the book as you are reading it, or stopping after key sections to summarize/ analyze what is going on. Although reading should be pleasurable, reading for a class also means that it is intellectual/ academic. We will do several things with this novel in the fall, and there’s nothing more frustrating than searching for that one scene or moment that you need in order to complete specific tasks in class! At a minimum, you will be expected to actively participate in class discussions, prompt response/analysis writing activities, and a Socratic Seminar during the first weeks of school. Further details about those assignments will be shared at the start of fall semester.

**IDEAS for NOTE-TAKING:** Below are several general questions/ topics that you might consider as you are making observations/ taking notes while reading. They are the kinds of things that you should pay attention to no matter what & that will be fruitful for our work together in the fall!

Start with a quotation from a key section or scene and comment on it. Why is it important? Extend beyond the text itself. For example: maybe the passage is important for a character, but how about us?

Read between the lines. Sometimes it's what characters don't say that matters. Cite a passage and explain what's really going on. Be sure to show how you know it.

Analyze the development of a dynamic character: how does she/he grow, learn, etc.? (AP tests are full of passages that show character growth).

Compare or contrast a scene, incident, character, or situation with a similar one in another work of literature.

Note key literary devices that stand out to you—patterns, motifs, symbols, irony, images, etc.

Note questions or passages or events that puzzle you or that contain ambiguities. What’s puzzling or ambiguous? Why? Do you think this was intentional on the author’s part? If so, to what end?

**Part III:** After reading *A Prayer for Owen Meany* thoroughly **complete a Major Works Data Sheet (MWDS).** A MWDS is a part of this packet. Do not copy and paste information from the internet; this is plagiarism & will not be accepted. No extra sheets of paper are allowed. All info must be fit into the spaces provided. You may *neatly* handwrite or type your work. **Due date: first day of school**.

**AP Literature and Composition *Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

## ***Major Works Data Sheet:*** *Do not cut/paste from a website, which is a form of plagiarism.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title:** *A Prayer for Owen Meany* | Biographical information about the author: |
| **Author:** John Irving |  |
| **Date of Publication:**  |
| **Genre:**  |
| Historical information about the period of publication or setting of the novel: |
|  |
| Characteristics of the genre: |
|  |
| Plot Summary: Do not cut/paste from a website, which is a form of plagiarism. |
|  |

### ***A Prayer for Owen Meany***

### **Major Works Data Sheet**

|  |
| --- |
| *Memorable Quotes* at least 5 – more is better |
| Quotation | Significance |
|  |  |

***A Prayer for Owen Meany***

**Major Works Data Sheet**

|  |
| --- |
| **Characters** |
| Name | Role in the story | Significance | Adjectives |
|  |  |  |  |

***A Prayer for Owen Meany***

**Major Works Data Sheet**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Setting(s) | Significance of the opening scene |
|  |  |
| Symbols or Motifs (at least three) | Significance of the ending/closing scene |
|  |  |
| Possible Themes – Topics of Discussion (elaborate) minimum of 3 |
|   |