Dear 12 AP Students and Parents/Guardians:

Hello. I hope that you are well. What typically would follow in this letter is the standard greeting and introduction to the course that my new and future students receive, in some form, every year. This year is not like “every year” in any way. Therefore, I’ve amended what I typically ask of you in preparation for our working relationship together. Rather than several mandatory titles and the requisite work, I’m asking you to read one: Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison: Written in the politically and socially turbulent 1940s, Invisible Man is one of the definitive novels of the African-American experience; it is also one of the definitive novels for all Americans. The issues Ellison so powerfully addresses are those that confront everyone who lives in the modern world: not only racism but the very question of personal identity, our frustrated impulse to assert ourselves in a world which is metaphorically blind.

Your assignment for this text is to keep a reading journal. As you read, reflect on things that resonate with you. Ask questions of the text. Copy down passages that are of particular interest or confusion for you. Make connections. AT LEAST FIVE TIMES during the reading of Invisible Man, write a full-page reflection. All of the work you do with this important book, will be the gateway into our year together. Enjoy.

The journal you keep will be referenced almost immediately when we begin class.

I’m attaching a link to a .pdf that you can access. Ralph Ellison - Invisible Man v3.0.hwp I’d suggest you find a hard copy in the library or a bookstore (Amazon has used copies for under $8.00) Invisible Man on Amazon It is an important book, a good read, and the type of piece that you may value and want to hold on to.

For voracious readers and those who cure summer-time doldrums with books, the district is providing a list of titles that students can choose from. These have been thoughtfully selected by a team of district teachers who care about the works that are available to you. They are not mandatory for the class, but they are highly recommended. Consider the list when you find yourself looking for a new book.
I’ve also attached a list of words that you must define and memorize. The simple truth is this, if you can access and USE these words in your everyday discussions about books and art, you will have an incredible advantage and a "leg up" in the class.

AP Literature and Composition is a demanding and challenging course. You will become an independent and responsible reader/writer as you immerse yourself in a curriculum filled with poetry, classic/contemporary fiction, drama, expository prose, and Greek and Roman mythology. You will not just read words, but you’ll also interpret what is unspoken and implied by the writers. This course will examine the complexity of a literary work, as well as a writer’s objective, and how that objective is achieved. You will reflect on your readings through discussion, analytical writing, and revision. Perhaps most importantly, you will begin to find and fine-tune an appreciation of beauty that connects these works and that unites all works of art.

**Connecting and Staying in Touch**

Please connect to the class on the Remind app. **Text the number 81010.** In the message of that text, type: `@4f72e4`

My email address is `mcuriale@sewanhakaschools.org`. I will check my school email periodically throughout the summer.

Have a great summer! Please stay safe. I look forward to September.

Sincerely,

Matthew Curiale
12 AP Literature and Composition Terms to Know:

1. Allusion
2. Allegory
3. Ambiguity
4. Anapest
5. Anaphora
6. Antithesis
7. Aphorism
8. Apostrophe
9. Asyndeton
10. Ballad
11. Blank verse
12. Cacophony
13. Caesura
14. Chiasmus
15. Colloquial / colloquialism
16. Conceit
17. Connotation
18. Dactyl
19. Denotation
20. Diction
21. Didactic
22. Elegy
23. Enjambment
24. Epic
25. Epistrophe
26. Euphemism
27. Euphony
28. Extended metaphor
29. Free verse
30. Foil
31. Foot
32. Foreshadowing
33. iamb
34. Invective
35. Idiom
36. In medias res
37. Internal rhyme
38. Irony
39. Metonymy
40. Minimalism
41. Mood
42. Narrative
43. Neoclassicism
44. Ode
45. Omniscient narrator
46. Oxymoron
47. Paradox
48. Parallelism
49. Parody
50. Pathos
51. Pedantic
52. Periodic sentence
53. Petrarchan sonnet
54. Polysyndeton
55. Postmodernism
56. Prose
57. Prose poem
58. Realism
59. Repartee
60. Romanticism
61. Sarcasm
62. Satire
63. Sestina
64. Shakespearean Sonnet
65. Sight rhyme
66. Slant rhyme
67. Spondee
68. Synecdoche
69. Syntax
70. Syllogism
71. Trochee
72. Theme
73. Tercet
74. Tragic flaw
75. Verse
76. Vignette
77. Villanelle
78. Zeugma