

AP English 12
Mr. Wilson/Ms. Ferrone

Advanced Placement English 12
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment
2017-2018

All incoming AP English 12 students are required to:

1. Read *Caleb's Crossing* and selected chapters of *Writing About Literature* (details about the reading assignments can be found on the back side of this sheet).
2. Complete an essay based on these readings (see back side).
3. Take a multiple-choice test on *Caleb's Crossing* on the first full day of class.

Note: Students who fail to complete the summer work will be transferred to another section of English 12. Late enrollees to MVRHS will have 30 days to make up the summer work.

Advance Reading Assignment:

1. Brooks, Geraldine. *Caleb's Crossing*. New York: Penguin Group, 2011. The following synopsis is taken from the author's website, www.geraldinebrooks.com

In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic and adventure.

The narrator of Caleb's Crossing is Bethia Mayfield, growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans. Restless and curious, she yearns after an education that is closed to her by her sex. As often as she can, she slips away to explore the island's glistening beaches and observe its native Wampanoag inhabitants.

At twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a tentative secret friendship that draws each into the alien world of the other. Bethia's minister father tries to convert the Wampanoag, awakening the wrath of the tribe's shaman, against whose magic he must test his own beliefs. One of his projects becomes the education of Caleb, and a year later, Caleb is in Cambridge, studying Latin and Greek among the colonial elite. There, Bethia finds herself reluctantly indentured as a housekeeper and can closely observe Caleb's crossing of cultures.

2. Roberts, Edgar V. *Writing About Literature*, 10th edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2003. 382 pp. (Chapters 1, 4 and 8 only).

Advance Writing Assignment: Essay Topic

Read *Caleb's Crossing* and chapters 1, 4 and 8 in *Writing About Literature* before you begin. The essay should represent only your ideas; *please do not sample or incorporate ideas from other sources*. Share your essays in google.docs format to dwilson@mvrhs.org or cferrone@mvrhs.org

Topic (Prompt taken from the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition 2003 Exam):

Apply the essay prompt below by writing a well-organized essay of 600-750 words based on your reading and analysis of *Caleb's Crossing*. Be sure to answer the prompt and avoid mere plot summary.

2003. Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures -- national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question. Select a novel or play in which a character responds to such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.

Essay Evaluation Guide

_____ I. Ideas (30 points)

30 25 22 19

- A. Central idea is clearly and adequately explored
- B. Ideas are balanced according to their significance
- C. Ideas show a sophisticated understanding of text
- D. Discussion of ideas acknowledges complexities and ambiguity of text.
- E. Concepts and terms of textbook/lecture utilized.

_____ II. Details (30 points)

30 25 22 19

- A. Clear, relevant details, quotes, and examples develop and enrich the central focus.
- B. Plot relation is kept to a minimum.
- C. Details are frequent and brief, but adequately explained.

_____ III. Organization(20 points)

20 17 15 13

- A. Writing is organized in a way that enhances meaning and develops central idea.
- B. Each developmental paragraph addresses a specific aspect of the topic.
- C. The sequence of the paragraphs is effective and transitions provide fluency.

_____ IV. Style + Conventions (20 points)

20 17 15 13

- A. A strong grasp of standard writing conventions: spelling, punctuation, and grammar is apparent. Format guidelines are followed.
- B. Strong and varied sentence structure clearly conveys meaning.
- C. Well-chosen words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way.
- D. The writing is natural and compelling.

_____ TOTAL/ 100

