In A.P. English Literature and Composition, we will have the incredible opportunity to read a significant range of texts, providing a rich ground for discussion, thought, and learning.

Summer reading and accompanying work serves two functions: to give us a starting place in the fall, and to forestall summer brain death through reading and writing. This important requirement will ease your transition into the A.P. Literature program. Failure to complete this assigned work will result in immediate removal from the A.P. class.

The works and assignments:

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

A personal anecdote: when I was assigned this novel in high school, I finished it in a day because I could not put it down. To this day, it is one of my enduring favorites. Take careful notes to help you write four essays in the fall (affectionately called “boot camp”): character, setting, plot, and theme. Note significant quotations and, of course, cite page numbers. You may take traditional notes or use a clearly defined and organized post-it note system. **Good notes are crucial as they are the basis for your first four writing assignments.** The essays will follow models in Edgar V. Roberts’ *Writing About Literature*.

*Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys

Written more than 100 years after *Jane Eyre*, Rhys’ novel is a prequel to Brontë’s, telling the story of life in the Caribbean before Thornfield and a young governess named Jane. While not imperative, reading this after *Jane Eyre* is recommended. Upon completion, please write five Socratic questions with answers which address this novel in tandem with Brontë’s work. We will use them in our first Socratic seminar of the year.

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

A contemporary classic, *The Joy Luck Club* established Tan as one of the great writers of the latter part of the 20th century. Taking on the challenges of the relationships in a family – both biological and the family you choose – Tan illustrates the humanity which transcends time, geography, and language. We will be embarking on a joint project with the A.P. Language students (grade 11), so please read carefully and take notes to be ready for that work when we return to school.

**Poets.org:** Please sign up for the daily poem at https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem-day. Over the course of the summer choose 5-10 poems you like and have them with you on the first day of school, including a quick note about why you chose these particular works. One of your first essays of the year will be a poetry analysis on one of these works.

Summer reading is due on the FIRST DAY OF CLASS. Failure to complete the reading and assigned note taking, etc. will result in immediate removal from A.P. English 12 and transfer to another English 12 course (honors may or may not be available).
While reading, set yourself up for success: pace your reading and corresponding work. Start early, so you can enjoy the novels without deadline pressure. I want to hear from you, and understand your thinking in regard to the texts. Should you consult outside critical sources, be sure to credit them.

Should you have questions this summer, email me at: jones.bethan@marbleheadschools.org.

Have a wonderful summer, and enjoy the literature. You may find some new authors or characters who will be lifelong favorites.

Have fun!

Ms. Jones