

**English Department  
Stoughton High School  
Required Summer Reading List-Grade 11 AP  
Language and Composition**

**Texts:**

*Writing About Literature*-ninth edition-Edgar V. Roberts (chapters 1,2 and Appendix A)

*The Awakening*-Kate Chopin

*Fast Food Nation*-Eric Schlosser

*Catch 22*-Joseph Heller

“Once More to the Lake”- E.B White

“Politics and the English Language”-George Orwell

**Study guide questions**

You will need notes on each text to help you prepare for a test on these works. These questions for each selections should help you focus on important ideas. Questions on *Writing About Literature* will be submitted to your teacher in one of your first classes. We will be spending a considerable amount of time on each piece so be prepared to discuss and analyze each text in depth.

- I. *Writing about Literature*
  - A. Chapter 1
    1. Explain the difference between a controlling idea and a thesis statement. What is the relationship between the two?
    2. Create a personal list of what you consider the five most important concepts in this chapter and be prepared to defend your choices.
  - B. Chapter 2

Using the criteria described in the chapter, create a list of three “likes” and three “dislikes” for each of the following: *The Awakening*, *Fast Food Nation*, and *Catch 22*.
  - C. Appendix A
    1. Examine the following critical approaches to literature:
      - Moral / Intellectual
      - Feminist
      - Economic Determinist / Marxist
      - Psychological / Psychoanalytic
    2. Create a list identifying two of the appropriate critical approaches to use to study each of the *fiction* summer reading titles (*The Awakening* and *Catch 22*). Try to use each of these four critical approaches at least once. Be prepared to defend your choices.

- II. *The Awakening*  
Trace Edna's journey throughout the book. What events led to her final decision? Do you agree with Edna's final decision? Why or why not?
- III. *Fast Food Nation*  
In your own words, what is Schlosser's core argument? Is he convincing? How does Schlosser mix humor, terror, and shock to persuade his readers?
- IV. "Once More to the Lake" and "Politics and English Language"  
For each essay, explain the following, and be prepared to discuss your observations:
- What is the *subject* of the essay?
  - Who is the intended *audience*?
  - Who is the *speaker*?
  - What is the author's *purpose* in writing the essay?
- V. *Catch 22* (**Please read attached handout on *Catch 22* before reading the novel**)  
The blurb on the back of our edition of *Catch-22* claims that the novel "moves back and forth from hilarity to horror." Select one moment or a collection of moments from the novel that supports this claim and discuss Heller's purpose in using the moment(s) in such a way.