

## **James S. Rickards High School Summer Reading**

**Attention: Parents and Students!**



**WHO:** James S. Rickards High School Students taking AP Literature and Composition or IB Literature III

**WHAT:** The following information outlines the assignment we have given to our Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition students for the 2025 James S. Rickards Summer Reading Program. These rigorous courses require that students analyze literature, including texts written in verse and classic literature, as a basis for exploring contemporary themes. A requirement of the course is the AP Literature and Composition Exam, which is created by the College Board and administered after the year. This assessment includes three free-response questions: literary analysis of a poem, literary analysis of prose, and analysis of a selected work based on a specific concept. The following assignment will prepare students for what to expect.

Students are expected to complete the assignment by themselves, only using the power of their brains. If a student is caught plagiarizing, they will receive a 0%.

This assignment should be completed via a Word document. Students are encouraged to use their Leon County School's Office365 account, which can be accessed through ClassLink.

**WHEN:** This assignment will be collected within the second week of class during the 2025-26 school year.

**CONTACT INFO:** If you have any questions regarding our JSRHS Summer Reading Program, please feel free to contact Mrs. G. Cooper, JSRHS ELA Department Chair, ([cooperg2@leonschools.net](mailto:cooperg2@leonschools.net)), or Dr. Joe Williams, JSRHS IB Coordinator, ([williamsj@leonschools.net](mailto:williamsj@leonschools.net)).

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### Assignment:

To prepare you for your studies AP English program, you must complete the following tasks. You will read poems by the authors listed below.

First, go to <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

At that site you should search for authors and begin by reading their brief biographies. You will also find a small selection of their work. Make sure you are focusing on their poetry. Explore the available poems and **choose 2 poems from each author** that you find appealing. Carefully read these 10 poems multiple times to gain a good feel for their voice, tone, and meaning. Then, for each of the poems you have selected, complete a journal response. Each journal entry, one for each of the 10 poems, should include the following:

- The title and author of the poem
- Your response to the poem, including emotional reaction, why you like or dislike it, and a specific quality or feature that you think makes it stand out.
- An interpretation of the poem including subject and possible meaning.
- A description of a structural element (rhyming, stanza breaks, line breaks, enjambment, capitalization, rhythm, etc.) and that element's impact on the poem.
- An explanation of a figurative element (symbol, metaphor, allusion, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, etc.) and that element's impact on the poem.

How you complete this written task is up to you (hand written, typed, double-entry journal, free response, etc.) as long as all the above elements are included.

**This assignment is due by Friday, August 22nd of the 2025 -2026 school year.**

For each poet listed below, you'll choose TWO of their poems for your journal response, for a total of 10 journals.

- Joy Harjo
- Audre Lorde
- Ross Gay
- Timothy Yu
- Walt Whitman