



2021 Advanced Academics Summer Study

AP Literature & Composition

Aledo ISD Advanced ELAR courses are focused on College Board's Areas of Focus for English classes: **reading closely**, **valuing evidence**, and **noticing language choices**. Our Pre-AP and AP Summer Studies were designed with these focal points in mind. All students enrolled in advanced ELAR courses are required to choose at least ONE text from a list of titles curated for their literary value and the author's purpose and craft evident in the text. Each course's summer study also contains a highly recommended accompanying task designed to support the reader's practice of College Board's Areas of Focus. Students will be asked to use their resulting deep understanding of texts read over the summer in classroom discussion and compositions during the first unit of instruction and throughout the 2021-22 school year.

-Staci Hammer, ELAR Curriculum Specialist, Aledo ISD

Text Choices-Please select ONE title from the list of four below.

Each of the following titles explore at least one of the following topics.

- Home
- Family
- Independence/Freedom
- Religion/Culture

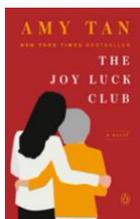
This is just a short list of concepts that undergird many of the texts read and analyzed in our coursework and on the culminating assessment. Our students will spend time in AP Literature & Composition (AP Lit) analyzing how author's perceptions of these concepts inform their writing choices.

**Some of these titles may contain mature language and/or situations. Select the text with which you are most comfortable.*



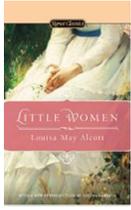
Bless Me Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya

Bless Me, Ultima is about the social-psychological maturation of a Mexican American, or Chicano, boy living on the eastern plains of New Mexico during the 1940s. Antonio is preoccupied with and anxious about attending school and having to be separated from his mother. Related to these concerns is his engrossment with knowing his destiny. This concern is exacerbated by his mother's desire that he become a priest to a community of farmers, where her family lives. At the same time, Antonio is concerned about realizing the wandering desire that stems from his paternal lineage.



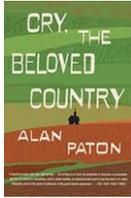
The Joy Luck Club, by Amy Tan

Four mothers, four daughters, four families, whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who is telling the story. In 1949, four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives – until their own inner crises reveal how much they have unknowingly inherited of their mothers' pasts.



Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott

The story follows the lives of the four March sisters and details their passage from childhood to womanhood. Generations of readers young and old, male, and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.



Cry the Beloved Country, by Alan Paton

Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty. *Cry, the Beloved Country*, is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage, and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

Recommended Task- In AP Lit, we will write **literary arguments** over different interpretations of novels. To do this, we analyze the choices that authors make to create meaning using the elements of the novel to convey messages about truth as they see it. Authors strategize as they make those choices, and, as a result, consistent patterns surface that we as readers can analyze.

Literary Analysis Chart

Instructions: In your chosen book, create or research a **thematic statement**, and then focus on how the four most elemental features of a story—Characters, Setting, Structure, and Narrator—all interweave and build on each other to create your thematic statement.

Instructions:

First, choose and begin reading your book, and then find a thematic statement.

For example, if we are looking at the novel *Little Women*, here is one example of a thematic statement (Please do not use the one provided below.):

"Little Women by Louisa May Alcott toys with gender norms of the 19th century, and strives to emphasize that women are human beings complete with thoughts, desires, creative genius, vices, and virtues, and that they are capable of accomplishing and embodying more than the patriarchal gender roles of the 19th century allow."--Lit Charts

Second, as you read, annotate with an eye toward answering the following questions as they relate to your thematic statement. If I am reading *Little Women* and have chosen the thematic statement above, I will focus on gender norms of the time: Who breaks them? Who fills them? What events are influenced by those roles? etc.

Focus primarily on your thematic statement and the four elements in the chart on the next page.

Please fashion your analysis in a chart, mirroring the one below. You may complete the task digitally or on paper. Remember, our goal is to annotate wisely, not abundantly (quality over quantity).

Literary Analysis Chart	
AP Lit Skill 1- Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid being overwhelmed, choose two or three main characters. • How is the character’s perspective shaped and revealed by the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relationships with other characters ○ Relationship to the environment ○ Events in the plot • How do these characters specifically work as the best tools for the author to convey the thematic statement you have chosen?
AP Lit Skill 2- Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting and the details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What societal values relevant to your thematic statement are depicted by the setting and time-period? (You will need to do a little research here.)
AP Lit Skill 3 - Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track a cause-and-effect relationship through a sequence of events that happen to the protagonist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are key values at stake in each event? ○ How do characters conflict in a sequence of events? ○ What effect does this have on the rise and fall of the fortunes of the main characters (the ones you are tracking)? ○ How are these events determined by the setting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do the values of the time-period, cultural setting, and/or political/social setting influence or determine events? ▪ What does the author intend for us to understand about the theme due to this influence? • How does this sequence of events work to create the thematic statement? What makes it effective and believable?
AP Lit Skill 4 - Narrator (Perspective and Point of View)	<p>Perspective refers to how narrators, characters, or speakers see their circumstances, while point of view refers to the position from which a narrator or speaker relates to the events of the narrative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the point of view of the narrator (first, third limited, third omniscient, or objective point of view -- the narrator disappears into a kind of roving camera)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What types of information can the narrator give due to point of view? ○ How intimate is the narrator with the protagonist, events, and other characters? ○ Is the narrator unreliable? Why? ○ Why do you think the author chose this point of view? • What do you know about the narrator that can help you determine his/her perspective? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How is he/she related to the protagonist? • How does the author use point of view and perspective to influence and create the thematic statement?

Through your annotations, you have just completed an analysis of decisions that authors make to convey one message. Using this analysis, you have made an evaluation how well the author accomplishes their purpose. Although you may have begun with a thematic statement that you found in the outset, you have done the work to piece together the puzzle. This is the beginnings of a literary argument!

In AP Lit, you will insightfully and creatively develop your own thematic statements and personal interpretation of well-written literature! This invaluable life skill will enable you to speak and write with confidence in your own academic prowess as well as enrich your life experience.

Finally, make sure that you include the title of your book, your thematic statement, and that you have clarified and organized the annotations and included page numbers (so that you can find them again) that pertain to the thematic statement. You will also use your work during the first quarter. These notes will also be very helpful when you begin to study for the test, especially in preparation for Free Response Question #3, which asks you to utilize your deep understanding of well-written texts.

Once you have completed the recommended task:

If you typed your analysis, please save in Google Drive and keep available for use when we return to school. If you used pen and paper, bring to class with you the first week of school. Please note that all submitted work for AP Lit is subject to Turnitin.com scrutiny for academic integrity. This work needs to represent your current skill set and not that of others.

We will hold **Socratic seminars** and write a **literary argument** for which findings from your summer reading will prove useful. To exercise our creative muscles, we will also **compose a short story** in which we make meaning using the four AP Lit Skills practiced in the Recommended Task, so your analysis will impact the strength of your own writing skills.