This curriculum guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of AP Literature. While this is an overview, your child’s actual experience may differ from this guide depending on your child’s individual needs. This guide focuses on the key skills your child will learn, which will build a strong foundation for success in other subjects and in future learning opportunities. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in this curriculum guide, he or she will be well prepared for college level English classes.

You should use this guide as a resource to gain an understanding of the key skills that will be introduced and/or mastered by your child this year. This will help promote a better understanding, as well as allow for a strong relationship to be developed with your child’s teacher. Regular ongoing dialogue about teaching and learning, beyond parent-teacher conferences, is expected and desired.

At home, you play an important role in setting and reinforcing high expectations for your child, while providing support for your child in meeting them. If your child needs additional help or wants to learn more about a topic, work with his or her teacher to identify opportunities for support or to find additional resources to supplement the learning. High expectations do not just surround the content being learned. Your conveyed expectations should also surround the development and use of the following soft skills: effective time-management, persistence and perseverance, self-confidence, growth mindset, productive use of constructive criticism, thinking critically, exhibiting independence, and being motivated.
AP Literature

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is designed to imitate a college level, freshman English course. By performing well on the AP Exam in May, students will be able to obtain one year of college credit in English. Thus, the pace and depth of this class is equal to a college level. This class will be both stimulating and demanding with the core goal “to encourage students to read, write and discuss works critically and with energy and imagination” (College Board). Whether students plan on being an English major or not, all college courses will require them to read, discuss and write about their ideas. No matter how well they do on the AP Exam, the best part of this class is that they will be more prepared for college classes next fall (yes, in just one year!). It is important, in that case, for students to take this class seriously in preparation for their future.

A sample of skills to be gained:

- Careful observations of a literary work’s
  o Structure, style and themes
  o The social and historical values it reflects and embodies
  o Such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone
- Writing to understand: informal, exploratory writing activities that enable students to discover what they think
- Writing to explain: Expository, analytical essays in which students develop an extended explanation/interpretation of a work.
- Writing to evaluate: Analytical, argumentative essays in which students draw upon textual details to make and explain judgments about a work’s artistry and quality, and its social and cultural values.
- Revision of work focusing on vocabulary, sentence structure, organization, using specific details, and effective use of rhetoric.

List of primary sources for learning:

- Textbook: Literature & Composition – Jago, Shea, Scanlon and Aufses
- How to Read Literature like a Professor – Thomas C. Foster
- Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
- Lord of the Flies – William Golding
- Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
- Rime of the Ancient Mariner – Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- King Lear – William Shakespeare
- Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
- Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston
- The Importance of Being Ernest – Oscar Wilde
- A Modest Proposal – Jonathan Swift
- Selected poetry
Help your child learn at home

As you invest in your child in many different ways each day, take the following things into consideration as you invest in his or her learning. These strategies will have a direct impact on the learning of your child at home.

- Create a suitable place for learning at home to be completed.
- Create a daily routine and stick to it as much as possible.
- Work with your child on their homework on a regular basis. Have them start the homework on their own and then provide assistance when asked. When they ask for help, try utilizing the following prompts to help them think through their learning.
  - What do you remember from the learning activities in school?
  - Is there a place that you can reference that will help you?
  - What do you think would help?
  - Explain to me what you are struggling with.
  - What do you think you should do next?

It is important to help your child work through the answer, not just provide them with the answer. This process is extremely important in helping your child develop strategies that can be used whether he or she is with you or not.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

AP Literature

- Read over their essays for clarity of writing.
- Ask your student what they are reading in class and to give you a brief summary.
- Buy your student an AP Literature Prep book (I recommend 5 Steps to a 5).
- Encourage your student to keep up with the reading and homework assignments.

- Encourage your student to revise their in-class essays.
- Remind your student that they should come in for help if they need it and that I am always willing to read over essays if they need feedback.