

2017 A.P. Literature Summer Reading  
Assignment  
Mr. Clarke

The A. P. Literature Summer Reading Assignment will consist of the following texts:

- *Siddhartha*, by Herman Hesse
- *Billy Budd*, by Herman Melville

***Siddhartha* is located in the FCHS book room or both are downloadable via google – links at bottom of this page.**

**Assignment:** Read these books (one novel, one novella) and make note of at least three major themes, which you can discern from each text. The themes you propose can originate from any one or a few of the literary devices which you have studied thus far (plot, character, tone/mood/attitude, point of view, imagery, symbolism, or recurrent figurative language/conceits); you do not need to discover a theme through each literary component (plot, character, tone, point of view, etc.). Just choose three themes per book using *your choice* of those literary components.

Once you have identified these themes (3 themes for each story, totaling 6 themes), develop them, meaning, write about them. Do not simply tell me what they are, but why and how they are. Give examples from the texts. For example, if one of your themes is “the nature and quality of justice” in *Billy Budd*, then you must write how and why this theme is present in the narrative. Use your powers of exposition (analytical explanation) to explain these themes in language appropriate to literary analysis. To clarify again: If one theme in *Siddhartha* is “self-discovery”, how is it shown in the text, through plot or character or tone? Why is it a major theme? What are we supposed to understand from it? Do this development work for each of the three themes per book. You should have at least two substantial paragraphs per theme, totaling 12 paragraphs in the finished work.

Use SparkNotes or any other supplementary aid if you must but try not to rely upon it. This should come from your mind, your reading, your analysis/interpretation.

**Links to the texts:**

*Siddhartha* - <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2500/2500-h/2500-h.htm>

*Billy Budd* - <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/bb/BillyBudd.html>