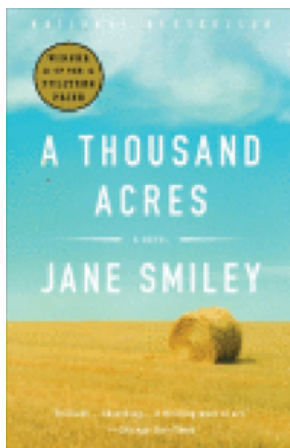


AP English Literature Summer Reading



A Thousand Acres, by Jane Smiley, is an “ambitious reimagining” of Shakespeare’s *King Lear*. The story examines the fallout when a successful Iowa farmer decides to divide his farm among his three daughters. (We’ll read Shakespeare’s *King Lear* during first quarter.) Please purchase a copy of *A Thousand Acres*. A new soft-cover copy costs \$15.00, but you can also check on-line for less expensive, used copies.

For your summer assignment, **select three passages from the novel**. One must come from Book One (Chapters 1-7) or Two (Chapters 8-17). The next passage must come from Book Three (Chapters 18-28) or Book Four (Chapters 29-34). The third passage must come from Book Five (Chapters 35-41) or Book Six 42-Epilogue). This novel is lengthy but very enjoyable; please allow yourself enough time to read and process it fully.

Begin by taking thorough notes of at least two passages (don’t hesitate to write in the book since you own it). A rich passage should be equivalent to **about a page** in the novel. Choose passages rich and substantial enough to merit analysis.

Your response to each passage should be about **1 to 1 ½ double spaced pages** in proper MLA format. Provide one Works Cited page with an entry for the novel attached to your three responses.

- Begin each written response by briefly summarizing the passage you selected. Your summary should be three to five sentences. Be sure to include a page number in a proper MLA parenthetical citation. A clear thesis statement, which offers the point you will prove in your paper regarding a theme and devices, should come next.
- Then discuss how the author uses literary elements such as point of view, tone, diction, syntax, figurative language (metaphors, similes, imagery), irony, to help develop a central message or theme in the novel. Deal with two or three elements per passage.
- You do not need a full-blown introduction or a conclusion for these responses. Instead, devote your energy and effort into fully developing your analysis of evidence.
- You must quote from each passage several times in your papers. Be sure to introduce all evidence properly and to analyze it completely.