

Summer Reading Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, a rigorous and rewarding course that will demand from students a high level of critical thinking, a wide variety of reading in numerous genres, and scholarly and sophisticated writing in various formats. The course will consist of intensive preparation for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam in May 2019, and a survey of American, British, and world literature. As such, the summer reading assignment will prepare students for the school year by serving as a foundational text and introducing integral skills and conceptual understandings, which will be addressed throughout the year and assessed on the AP Exam. The summer reading assignment will cover the literary touchstone of the course: canonical fiction.

Have a great summer and enjoy your reading!

Please watch the following video as an introduction to the author:

<https://nj.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/am115.ela.lit.ellison-intro/an-introduction-to-ralph-ellison/#>

As you read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, please take note of and analyze the following literary elements. Your annotations can be taken in any format you'd like.

Allusions:

Historical Figures:

Marcus Garvey
Booker T. Washington
Tuskegee Institute
W.E.B. DuBois
Emerson

Literary:

epigraphs
Benito Cereno
The Odyssey
Huck Finn
Heart of Darkness
Notes From the Underground
Brer Rabbit

Historical:

Great Migration
Harlem
Communist Party
Harlem Riots of 1935 and 1943
the vets
the Golden Day

Motifs:

sight/blindness
visibility/invisibility
black/white
segregation/integration
North/South
light/dark

Symbols:

the Golden Day
Supercargo
the briefcase
the link of the chain
the Sambo doll
Mary's bank
Brother Jack's glass eye
paint

Your notes are due on the first day of class.