2020-2021 AP Language Summer Reading Assignment


2. Read *The Lottery and Other Stories*, annotating as you go. Efficient and thoughtful annotating is one of the most valuable skills you can develop and nurture during this course; annotating well aids your retention, comprehension, and assimilation of what you read. In particular, take note of Jackson’s use and/or creation of the following:
   - Allusion
   - Characterization
   - Diction
   - Figurative Language
   - Humor
   - Imagery
   - Motif
   - Setting
   - Symbolism
   - Syntax
   - Theme
   - Tone
(If any of these terms are unfamiliar or unclear, please look them up before embarking on this reading because we will be using these terms all year, and you need a solid understanding of their meanings and usage.)

3. There are five sections in this book (not counting the epilogue). For each section, choose your favorite story, then write a substantial paragraph (10-15 sentences) for each story, explaining why it was your favorite from that section. Your paragraphs should focus on specific aspects from each story, explaining why those aspects make each story better than the others. Above all, DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE STORIES. To be clear, you should write FIVE substantial explanation paragraphs, one for each of your favorite stories from each section. Your paragraphs should be typed; I suggest using Google Docs, since it autosaves. I will open up a Schoology assignment when we’re close to the beginning of school so you can submit your work. Do not email your writing to me or print it out.

4. Be prepared, upon returning to school in August, to submit your copy of *The Lottery and Other Stories* for an annotation check (that is, I will take up your copy of the book and review your annotations) and to discuss and write about the stories.

Questions? Send me a Schoology message or an email to david.wright@signature.edu

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* Shirley Jackson (1916-1965) was an American writer who grew up in California but whose stories are mostly set in small towns in the northeast, much like North Bennington, Vermont, where her husband was a college professor. In addition to the stories collected in this book, she wrote a number of other short stories, two memoirs, and six novels, including *The Haunting of Hill House*, which was recently adapted into a Netflix series.