

# AP English Approach Paper—4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks

**Worth 2 Test Grades, plus multiple daily grades**

## **What is an *Approach Paper*?**

A formal analysis of the book you read. **You will need to read the book carefully, keeping the requirements of the Approach Paper in mind and making notes about the book as you read.** When you complete the book, write the paper and take time to revise it, making it an example of your best writing—I'll help you set up the formatting in class, but much of your work will be done outside of class.

Final copies should be typed. Use 12 point Times New Roman, and single spacing (not MLA format). Use a 1" margin all the way around and follow the form/directions below:

### **Student's heading at left-hand margin includes:**

Student's Name

Date

AP English (class period)

*Title of Book*, Author's Name, total number of pages in the book

- I. Summary Paragraph:** A well-written paragraph of 4 – 5 sentences which **summarizes the ENTIRE book, using as much description and detail as you can while staying within the limit of 5 sentences.** To develop your sentence fluency and make it more interesting to read, begin every sentence a different way (list of ideas on my [MrsKissire.weebly.com](http://MrsKissire.weebly.com) website). You may find it difficult to “tell the entire story” in only one paragraph, but that is the requirement. **This must be your own writing; no quotes from the back of the book, the bookcover’s flaps, the Internet, or any other source are allowed.**
  
- II. Descriptions:** This is a good time to think about vivid vocabulary words; use the dictionary/thesaurus to help you. If you use a particular word to describe one individual, you may not use that same word to describe another individual or the period/event.
  - a. If this is nonfiction on an individual, then:**
    - i. For this individual, supply the individual’s name AND 4-5 words that distinctly describe the individual.
    - ii. For the time period in which this individual exists/existed, supply 4-5 words which distinctly describe the time period.
  - b. If this is nonfiction on a specific time period/event, then:**
    - i. Choose 3 individuals involved with this time period/event, and for each individual, supply the individual’s name plus 4-5 words which distinctly describe the individual.
    - ii. Choose 4-5 words which distinctly describe this time period/event. Again, no words can be repeated.

**III. Discussion/Essay Questions:** Write 3 questions and answers (choose 3 of the 4 highest levels of Bloom's Taxonomy). These should be the type that a teacher might ask about the book. Use the "AP" section at [Mrs.Kissire.weebly.com](http://Mrs.Kissire.weebly.com) to find sample verbs and question stems. Examples include:

- How does the author's diction (word choice) contribute to the book? Use 3 specific examples.
- What kinds of figurative language do you notice the author using in this book? What effect does each have?
- Discuss examples of parallelism found in the book.
- How does this book compare to others that you have read? Support your opinion.



**IMPORTANT: After you compose your question, write a complete answer for it.**

Remember to use details from the book to support ALL your answers.

**IV. Key Passage:** Select the **most important passage** in your book (in your opinion). Copy the passage word-for-word, using quotation marks (or indentation for long passages—more than 5 lines; I'll show you how) and citing the page numbers. **After the passage, write a paragraph of your own to explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the focus of the book.** Integrate quotes from the key passage and other parts of the book to strengthen your explanation. These explanations should include answers to most of, but not be limited to, the following questions:

Why is this important in the context of the entire novel? How would this passage help a reader understand the book? How does the passage connect to the theme(s) of the book?

This passage could be one from your dialectical journal, BUT your explanation for this approach paper needs to be more involved than the one in your journal.

**V. Your Opinion:** In 2-3 paragraphs, write what you liked/disliked *most OR least* about this book. This can be about the author's style, individuals, key events, themes, settings, literary devices, etc. Be sure to explain by using details to support your response. Tell why you would OR would not recommend the book to someone else in AP English.

#### **STEPS TO SUCCESS:**

- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST 2 DAYS BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE BEFORE BEGINNING IT!! This is an in-depth paper, and will NOT be accepted late or incomplete.
- Take the book with you to every class and read whenever you have extra time in class.
- Read over the holidays. Be finished reading before January 6.
- Read the book carefully, making notes that will be useful when you write your Approach Paper.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write the paper before the deadline.
- Take time to revise before the deadline.
- Turn the paper in early or on time. (Deadline TBA; you'll have at least a week's notice.)