**AP Literature and Composition** Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

June/July Reading Assignment

*“I been silent so long now it’s gonna roar out of me like floodwaters and you think the guy telling this is ranting and raving my God; you think this is too horrible to have really happened, this is too awful to be the truth! But, please. It’s still hard for me to have a clear mind thinking on it.*

***But it’s the truth even if it didn’t happen”*** (Kesey 13).

that being said…

**WELCOME TO AP LITERATURE!**

Over the course of the year, we will encounter several characters whose sanity will cause us to question their reliability, and whose shifting notion of truth may challenge our own. *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* is only the beginning! I’m giving you a fast read for the summer, one that should make you laugh as it simultaneously horrifies the hell out of you. Did I just say hell in an assignment? Sorry, that’s Chief Bromden rubbing off on me. You’ll see what I mean soon enough…

Now, no one exactly jumps for joy at the idea of summer reading, but if you complete the enclosed assignment, I can assure you will have a thought-provoking reading experience followed by a smooth transition into AP Literature and Composition.

*One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* is Ken Kesey’s fever dream of a manifesto on the sounds of silence, sanity, and identity. It is a work that is far more complex than its fast-paced prose might suggest, so pay careful attention to what kind of commentary Kesey might be making on the relationship between society and the individual.

Your summer reading project has three parts as outlined below:

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| **Part I: Ken Kesey’s**  ***One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Blogging (30 points)** | **Part II: Ken Kesey’s**  ***One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Questions (70 points)** | **Part III: Independent Reading**  **Options of Literary Merit**  **(50 points)** |
| 1. Read the attached assignment in its entirety. 2. Read the book! 3. As you read, write and post THREE blog entries as outlined on the following page (10 points per entry for a total of 30 points). | Answer the seven questions as outlined on the following pages in typed, double spaced paragraphs (10 points each for a total of 70 points). | 1. Choose a book off of the independent reading list or email Ms. B. to propose an alternative option. 2. Read the assignment as outlined in this packet. 3. Read the book! 4. Follow the attached instructions to write a 500- word book review of your book (50 points). |

Instructions can be found both in this packet and at [www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com](http://www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com), where you can download this entire packet on the AP Lit: *One Flew over the Cuckoo´s Nest* page, post your blog entries, interact with your classmates, and email me with any questions, concerns, or doubts you might have. My email address is [alexandra.brostoff@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.brostoff@gmail.com), and I tend to answer email inquiries extremely fast!

**Part I: Ken Kesey’s *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Blogging (30 points)**

**Blogging (30 points)**

The *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* blog is a forum for you to interact with the text, your classmates, and myself as you read. First, review the following expectations:

1. **R-E-S-P-E-C-T:** same as in class. Play nice.
2. Be honest: same as in class. It's fine if you're not in love with everything you read or hear, but give respectful, honest, analytical explanations for your opinions. **Challenge yourself** to disagree with your peers and/or the author, but once again, do so respectfully and analytically.
3. Post only on your class's blog on the appropriate page.
4. Please type your **full name, a creative title, and the page numbers** your blog entry is responding to on the top line of your comment. This will help us keep track of who is responding to what.
5. You may write in the first-person, informally. That being said, please write in complete sentences and keep your comments relevant and appropriate.
6. All entries must be a **minimum of 200 words.** Anything less will count as incomplete. Although you are not required to answer the Reader Response questions below, I encourage you to use them to give you ideas.
7. All entries must include three components: **questions** (these may be to stimulate discussion, challenge a peer, or to ask something that you are genuinely curious or confused about), **quotes** (from the book or other sources, using [MLA formatting](http://weebly-link/831023678842644429)), and **connections** (to anything else you've read, heard, seen, experienced etc.). You will be graded on how you respond to the text in light of these three components.
8. All quotes must be cited using [**MLA formatting**](http://weebly-link/831023678842644429).

As you read *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, post **THREE** blog entries. These may be general reactions to the text, a response to any of the reader response questions listed below, a response to another student’s blog post, a reaction to a significant quote, incident, or character etc. but all posts MUST be at least 200 words and include **questions, quotes, and connections** as explained in #7 above. Each blog post is worth 10 points for a total of 30. **These are due by the end of the first week of school with 5 points extra credit if they are posted by the FIRST day back to class. NO LATE BLOGS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

***Optional* Reader Response Questions** (to get you thinking…) (from [*You Gotta Be the Book*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0807735663/qid=1014228970/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/103-5425790-2937400) by Jeffrey Wilhelm)

1. What do you think the author wanted to set up or foreshadow in the first few sentences, paragraphs, or pages?
2. What do you know that helped you understand the reading? What might you need to know more about to help you understand?
3. How does the author develop the characters’ personalities?
4. Did you like the characters? How are the characters like anyone you know or even like you?
5. What are the characters’ problems?
6. What information did the author leave out? What's happening behind the words or scenes? How did you fill them in?
7. What other works have you read that are similar in some way to this one? What sticks out as the most important connection between the two?
8. What did you like most/least about this book?
9. Was there anything you didn't understand? What was it?
10. What idea was the author trying to explore in this work? How important is that idea?
11. If you were to make a movie of this story, who would be in the movie? What would you change to make the movie fit two hours? What kind of setting would you choose?
12. What [literary devices](http://mshogue.com/ce9/Gen_Info/literary%20terms.htm) and techniques are being used? What is the purpose of such devices?
13. Do you agree with how the author or characters see the world?  In what ways?
14. What do you feel is the most significant passage/word/event from the novel?

**Part II: Ken Kesey’s *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Questions (70 points)**

Write a short paragraph (at least 4 sentences) responding to each of the following questions in thoughtful, complete sentences. Use quotes as evidence to support your claims. Be sure your answers are typed, double-spaced, and proofread. Each question is worth 10 points, for a total of 70. **This assignment will be due by the end of the first week of school with 5 points extra credit if turned in on the first day of class. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.**

1. State whether you believe Chief Bromden is a reliable narrator or not. Why do you think Kesey chose to tell this story from the Chief’s point of view? Cite incidents from the novel to support your answer.
2. In what ways do the men change on the fishing trip? What change does Chief Bromden observe in McMurphy on the way back to the hospital?
3. Cite at least three quotes to explain the symbolic significance of each of the following motifs in Chief Bromden´s hallucinations:

* Machines and The Combine
* Fog
* Time control

1. What is the importance of laughter in this novel?
2. Many critics believe Kesey intends McMurphy to be a heroic, Christ-like martyr. Do you agree or disagree with this theory? Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.
3. Comment on the ending to this story. How does the ending reflect on a man’s right to be an individual versus society’s need for conformity?
4. Discuss the significance of the title and what birds may symbolize in this story.

**Part III: Independent Reading Options of Literary Merit (50 points)**

Choose one of the books off of the independent reading list at [www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com](http://www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com) under “Check This Out—You Gotta Read this!” or email Ms. B. to propose an alternative option. Your alternative choice must be approved in order to get credit for this assignment! **This assignment will be due by the end of the first week of school with 5 points extra credit if it is turned in on the first day of class. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.**

Write a thoughtful 500-word book review that states whether or not you’d recommend this book to your classmates. Use the following outline to structure your review:

1. Introduction
   1. **Hook** that grabs the reader’s attention
   2. **Background information** including the title, author, and a brief summary of the book, which does not give away the ending
   3. **Thesis statement** that states whether or not you’d recommend the book and specifically why
2. Body Paragraphs (at least 2-3 of these)
   1. **Topic sentence** evaluating the quality of the book’s characterization, language/writing, thematic development etc.
   2. **Specific supporting evidence**
3. Conclusion
   1. **Restate the thesis**
   2. Summarize the main ideas
   3. **Leave the reader thinking**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Summer Reading Project Rubric***

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| **Part I:**  **Ken Kesey’s *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Blogging (30 points)** | **Part III: Independent Reading Options of Literary Merit (50 points)** |
| **Blogs:**  Scores based on the thoughtful inclusions of quotes, questions, and connections.   * Post 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 * Post 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 * Post 3:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10   **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30**  **Part II:**  **Ken Kesey’s *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* Questions (70 points)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/70** | **Book Review:**  \_\_\_\_\_/10 points **thesis statement:** directly states whether the book is recommended and specifically why  \_\_\_\_\_/20 points **content**: appropriate, relevant examples given, logical explanations, no extraneous information  \_\_\_\_\_/15 points **organization/structure**: follows the outline including topic sentences; information presented in logical order  \_\_\_\_\_/5 points **mechanics**: grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure  **Total:**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50** |