

## Book Cards for AP English

**Book Cards/5x8** lined index cards: Do a set of these book cards for each work we read. Use black ink. Do not skip lines, please. Fill each card COMPLETELY!

*Book cards are a project unto themselves. By the time you finish a set of book cards, you will know everything about the book. These cards are a must when we begin reviewing for the AP exam that will be given in May. They are daunting and time consuming, but they are extremely valuable.*

1. Authorial Background (include reasons for writing the work) = 2 to 3 cards
2. Literary Period and Country= 1 to 2 cards
3. Setting (time and place) = ½ card
4. Characters (also at least 3 quotes about or said by each character--put quotes on back of card) 1 card or more per character
5. Theme(s) a few sentences – depending on number of themes 2-4 cards
6. Plot Summary = 6 to 8 cards
7. Unique Literary Devices (symbolism, allusions, irony, framework narrative, etc.) = at least 4 cards; most works require more
8. Read one critical essay about the work, from a scholarly journal. Summarize or take very thorough notes; also include a personal reaction to the essay. BE SURE to include a clear copy of the complete essay (please fold in half) along with a bibliographical entry at the beginning of your response for part 8 of book cards. Include not only page numbers but also library where this article can be found. = 2 to 3 cards. Using the Internet you may access the web site Galileo and look for journal articles there. Instead of citing the library, site Galileo.

Example - Critical Essay citation

Green, Henry. "Dust Motif in Madame Bovary." Modern Language Quarterly. 14(Jan. 1994): 431-34.(Clayton State)

Each set of book cards = 50 points

Place rubber band around each set of cards. Don't staple, paperclip, glue, or try to use anything else to hold the cards together. Please make a simple cover card that includes your name, title of the work, and the author. It is a waste of time to submit elaborately decorated cover cards. If you have time to create an elaborate colorful title card, you have time to add more substance to your cards. This will reflect on your grade.

**Why Book Cards?** Books cards help you practice the close reading techniques and critical reading skills you need to master for AP English assessments. The AP English curriculum requires you to comprehend much more than just what happens; you must work to understand and provide written and oral commentary on *how* the author uses diction, style, and literary elements to convey meaning.

- Note about sources – No wikipedia, no encyclopedias, no study guides, no sources classified as cheat sites. Only reliable, solid, verifiable sources are allowed.

Use the MLA BIBLIOGRAPHY (published monthly) to find scholarly journal articles.  
Found only at college libraries or on appropriate Internet connections.

Notice what is and isn't listed here.

### **Excellent Literary Journals**

*20th-Century Literature*  
*American Scholar*  
*Black American Literature Forum*  
*CLA Journal (College Language Association)*  
*Essays in Criticism*  
*Journal of Modern Literature*  
*Modern Drama*  
*Modern Fiction Studies*  
*Modern Language Quarterly*  
*Modern Language Review*  
*Modern Language Studies*  
*Nineteenth-Century Fiction*  
*Review in English studies*  
*Sewanee Review*  
*Shakespeare Newsletter*  
*Shakespeare Quarterly*  
*South Atlantic Quarterly*  
*Southern Humanities Review*  
*Southern Review*  
*Studies in American Fiction*  
*Studies in English Literature*  
*Studies in the Literary Imagination*  
*Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*  
*Style*  
*Texas Quarterly*  
*The Eighteenth Century*  
*The Explicator*  
*Theatre Notebook*  
*Tulane Drama Review*  
*Tulane Studies in English*  
*Victorian Poetry*  
*Victorian Quarterly*

Journal articles will NOT be returned to you.

I have a notebook containing the ones I have collected over the years. You may borrow one of these as long as you do so respectfully before or after school. Coming into my room the morning book cards are due and borrowing an article reflects poorly on your grade, and my opinion of you.

It is your responsibility to put the articles back in the correct place in the notebook.

No two students may share the same article from the notebook.

For example-- No, you may not make a copy of the shortest one and use that. This is an exercise in literary analysis, not literary shortcuts.

I watch my students. Their small habits tell me so much about their dedication to education. I remember this when I write college/ scholarship recommendation letters.