

## SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

---

### English 199: Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition

**In addition to completing the College Essay Assignment required for all rising seniors, students in AP Literature and Composition must complete the following additional reading and annotating assignment:**

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (Print or digital text allowed)

The ability to read closely and critically is one of the most important skills for success in AP Lit, and annotating will help students develop this skill. Keep a pen or pencil handy (or a stylus if you're reading an eBook); highlight/underline key passages; make notes in the margins.

Here are some specific ideas to consider while you read:

1. As the title suggests, Kingsolver makes extensive use of Biblical allusions. Mark any Biblical allusions you notice and consider the significance of each.
2. Kingsolver's novel is about a family of Southern Baptists on a mission to the Congo during the 1950s. This clash of cultures results in many conflicts. Pay attention to how Kingsolver presents the values of both cultures, particularly those based on gender, race, class, or creed. Consider how the characters respond to the various cultural differences.
3. The key to analyzing any work of literature lies in the reader's ability to recognize patterns. When reading deep into the novel, look for any recurring parallel events, characters, or motifs.

All AP Lit students are expected to read closely and actively. Annotating the text is a great way to demonstrate engagement. Even the best readers won't find everything (especially during a first or initial read), but fully engaged readers will make at least one notation per page. Passages highlighted or underlined represent the minimum level of engagement to demonstrate critical reading skills; annotations should be primarily commentary and analysis.