

## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2025-2026

Welcome! I'm looking forward to exploring the complexities of literature with you this coming school year. To get us started and to bridge the gap between your previous English studies and the rigors of AP Literature, you are required to complete this summer reading assignment. This assignment will introduce you to the kind of analytical thinking we will practice throughout the year.

### Required Texts:

"Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/512/512-h/512-h.htm#chap04>

"Richard Cory" by Edwin Arlington Robinson

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44982/richard-cory>

### Assignment Overview:

Read both "Young Goodman Brown" and "Richard Cory" carefully and thoughtfully. Annotate both thoroughly, following the guidelines below. Your annotations are crucial evidence of your thinking and engagement with the texts. Be prepared to discuss these works, share your annotations, and complete a timed writing related to them during the first week of class.

### Annotation Guidelines:

Annotation is more than just highlighting; it's about actively interacting with the text and recording your thoughts, questions, and observations directly on the page. Your annotations should serve as a roadmap of your critical reading process.

- Note direct statements about characters vs. indirect revelations (actions, speech, thoughts, appearance, others' reactions).
- Track changes or shifts in characters (especially Goodman Brown).
- Analyze character motivations (stated or implied).
- Mark instances revealing the gap between a character's public appearance and private reality.
- Identify key relationships between characters.
- Identify and briefly analyze the effect of symbolism, imagery, irony (verbal, situational, dramatic), tone, diction (word choice), point of view, setting, and structure. How do these contribute to characterization or theme?
- Mark passages related to key ideas like hypocrisy, loss of innocence, faith vs. doubt, appearance vs. reality, the nature of sin/evil, community perception, hidden despair.
- Note any thematic or stylistic connections you observe between "Young Goodman Brown" and "Richard Cory."
- Record your questions, confusion, predictions, and personal reactions as you read. What surprises you? What seems significant?
- Define unfamiliar words or note words used in interesting ways.

If you have any questions during the summer, please don't hesitate to reach out via email.

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