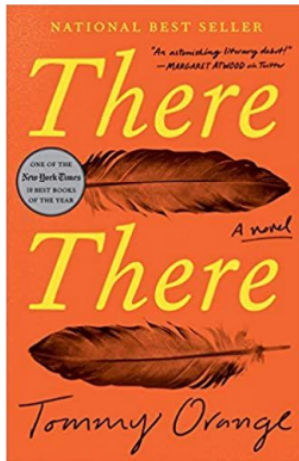


## AP Literature: Summer Reading 2023

Please read **one** of the following novels over the summer. Both are excellent! If you are a person who loves to read and is looking for good books to read this summer, I highly recommend reading both books.

Your **summer reading assignment** is posted below the novel descriptions on this doc. This assignment is due the first week of school. It will also be very useful as you prepare to write about your book!

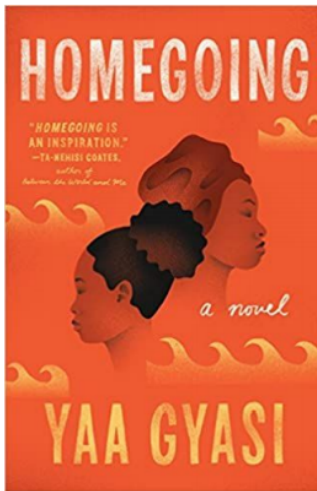


### ***There, There* by Tommy Orange**

From Amazon: Tommy Orange's "groundbreaking, extraordinary" (*The New York Times*) *There, There* is the "brilliant, propulsive" (*People Magazine*) story of twelve unforgettable characters, Urban Indians living in Oakland, California, who converge and collide on one fateful day. It's "the year's most galvanizing debut novel" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

As we learn the reasons that each person is attending the Big Oakland Powwow—some generous, some fearful, some joyful, some violent—momentum builds toward a shocking yet inevitable conclusion that changes everything. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and loss.

*There, There* is a wondrous and shattering portrait of an America few of us have ever seen. It's "masterful . . . white-hot . . . devastating" (*The Washington Post*) at the same time as it is fierce, funny, suspenseful, thoroughly modern, and impossible to put down. Here is a voice we have never heard—a voice full of poetry and rage, exploding onto the page with urgency and force. Tommy Orange has written a stunning novel that grapples with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and profound spirituality, and with a plague of addiction, abuse, and suicide. This is the book that everyone is talking about right now, and it's destined to be a classic.



### **Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi**

From Amazon: Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.

*Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

## **Summer Reading Assignment**

### **Part 1: 3X5**

One of the main objectives of AP LIT is learning how to figure out the literary argument of a novel. In other words, when we read a work of literature, we (the readers) are always trying to assess the author's argument. The phrase "literary argument" and the word "theme" are similar concepts. Overall, as the reader, YOU are trying to assess what this author believes about the world (or about a specific world) based on their fictional creation. The reader is able to discern the literary argument by looking at patterns established by the author and specific details from the book. In AP LIT, we will eventually break down these details into categories of elements of literature. For now, you will collect specific details.

Both books contain large casts of characters. You (AP LIT reader) will choose **THREE** characters/chapters that you enjoyed most, you were the most moved by, or you remember after reading. (This is key-- ask yourself, *what characters did I, the reader, remember the most during and after the reading? Who stuck with me?* This is a personal choice based on you and your reading experience). For each character list **3 specific revealing details or pivotal moments** from their chapter(s) that worked to shape this character. A revealing detail shows us something important about a character. A pivotal moment shows us a character changing from one thing to another. The changes can be subtle, as long as they signal a change. A revealing detail may be physical traits, actions, what others say about them, or what these characters think about themselves. These **MUST** be **specific details or moments from the text**. For example, "The character is determined" is NOT a specific detail or moment. Then, in the THEME TOPIC column, list three theme topics (these can be words or phrases) that the character connects with or illustrates.

We have provided an example of a 3X5 using a book you are hopefully familiar with, *The Great Gatsby*.

Character Name	THREE Revealing detail or pivotal moments	Theme topics generated by this character/theme topics illustrated by this character
Jordan Baker	Jordan Baker plays golf and is not married.	Status of women
	Jordan Baker borrowed a car, left the top down in the rain, then lied about it to the owner.	Lack of morality in the upper class.
	Jordan Baker was a bridesmaid in Daisy's wedding and witnessed the Gatsby letter reaction.	Social class, status of women
	It is rumored that she moved her ball from a bad lie/cheated in golf.	Lack of morality in the upper class.
	The day after the car accident and Myrtle's death, Jordan tells Nick that he was rude to her afterward at Tom's and Daisy's house.	The lack of morality in the upper class.
Daisy Buchanan		
Tom Buchanan		

Please copy the table below. Paste it into your own doc and complete it during or after your reading. All docs will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

Character Name	THREE Revealing traits/detail or pivotal moments	Theme topics generated by this character/theme topics illustrated by this character

**Part 2: Inquiry Questions**

Both of these books are works of fiction, but both books introduce us to worlds and histories we may be unfamiliar with. Many of the events and topics discussed in these books are not taught in school. (I learned so much reading these two books!) As you read or after you read, create **FIVE** questions based on actual events, ideas, or concepts that you learned about in the book. For my example, I learned a lot about the Fugitive Slave Act in *Homegoing*; I didn't know a lot about this legislation in American History. So one of my questions was *What was the actual impact of the Fugitive Slave Act on freed slaves and freed black people in the north?* Another question could be: *What did abolitionists do in response to the Fugitive Slave Act?* The idea is that you are going to learn all sorts of things while reading these books (about history or about a culture), and the inquiry questions will allow you to note something you did

not know and create a question around it. Hopefully, we can answer some questions together once class begins! As you read, you may find yourself thinking, "Oh, I never knew that..." That is a great moment to pause and write/create an inquiry question.

Please **list** your inquiry questions below your **6 x 6** table on your doc.