

## AP Lit. Summer Assignments

### Assignments & Deadlines:

#### June: Ruta Sepetys's *Between Shades of Grey* (2011)

**Summary:** [This novel is also NDA's Common Reader.] Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions" (Goodreads). "The book was a finalist for 2012 [William C. Morris Award](#) for a debut young adult novel and for the 2012 [Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award](#). It was shortlisted for 2012 [Carnegie Medal](#) and won the 2012 [Golden Kite Award](#). It received an Outstanding Merit recognition as a 2012 Best Children's Book of the Year from the Children's Committee of [Bank Street College of Education](#); the graphic novel version was on the 2022 list" (Wikipedia).

**Assignment:** This is your book for June. You must buy your own, unannotated copy of this novel. Write your name on the inside cover, along with Rm. 306 and AP Lit.

**Analysis essay** is due on the following date: **You will email Mr. Byrd your essay by Friday, June 30th, 2023.** In the essay, analyze ONE key passage from the assigned section of the book. The essay should be in MLA formatting, including header, assignment title, page number, etc. Be sure to include a thesis, a brief summary of the novel, context for your analysis, direct evidence from the text, etc. All the things we worked on during sophomore year. The essay should be at least two pages long.

#### July: Kayte Nunn's *The Botanist's Daughter* (2018)

**Summary:** [This novel is also the NEHS Common Reader.] The novel, which knits together the stories of two fictional female botanists investigating the same life-saving plant, won the 2020 [Winston Graham Historical Fiction Prize](#). The plot moves between nineteenth century Britain and Chile, and twenty-first century Australia in a tale filled with discovery, desire, and deception. \*This is a long novel, so do NOT put off reading it. About the author: <https://kaytenunn.com/about-me/>

**Assignment:** This is your book for July. You must buy your own, unannotated copy of this novel. Write your name on the inside cover, along with Rm. 306 and AP Lit.

**Analysis essay** is due on the following date: **You will email Mr. Byrd your essay by Monday, July 31st, 2023.** Same as the essay description above. Do NOT compare/contrast the two novels. And do not analyze the novels on the same literary element or device.

## AP Lit. Summer Assignments

A word on plagiarism: No student has permission to use someone else's thoughts on these two novels without citing those sources. No student has permission to collaborate with another student on her essay. Do your own work. AP students are held to the highest standard of academic honesty.

### **Suggested Reading:**

Check out this list of recommended reading for AP Lit.:

<https://www.albert.io/blog/ultimate-ap-english-literature-reading-list/>

Reminder: You don't have to agree with anything we read for class.