

**AP English Language and Composition**  
**Summer-Reading Guide**  
***HHhH***

The novel *HHhH* presents itself as the story of the assassination plot against Reinhardt Heydrich, the so-called “Butcher of Prague” and one of the architects of the genocide against Europe’s Jews. The book, however, is not a straightforward history of this event. This guide should prepare you for the work we’ll be doing in class when we return to school in the fall.

**The “What”**

Some of the themes—or “big ideas”—that the novel concerns itself with are history, truth, and fiction. Pay attention to the ways in which these things are understood and defined as well as the ways that the book challenges our notions of these items as stable categories.

**The “How”**

The methods that are used to explore the novel’s themes:

- Pastiche is a term that refers to a work of art (in this case, a novel) that is made up of a variety of other styles or genres. Look for the various techniques (historical texts, imaginary dialogue, metacommentary, etc.) that Binet utilizes to tell his story.
- The authorial voice. The novel contains two voices: the narrator who is relating the story and the character of “Laurent Binet,” who is expressing his own thoughts and feelings. Pay particular attention to the moments in the novel where the voice seems to intervene in the plot.

You will be responsible for being familiar enough with the novel to actively and intelligently participate in class discussion when we start school. A good way to do this is to annotate while you are reading. Highlight sections you think are important, and make sure you come to class with specific questions that will initiate discussion.

I will be checking my email frequently this summer, so don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Also, be sure to “like” Eastwood Academy AP Language and Composition on Facebook as I will be periodically posting things on the page.

Good luck and see you in the fall!

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