

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Summer Assignment 2017

“Preparing for either of the AP examinations in English is a cooperative venture between students and their teachers. Students should read widely and reflect on their reading through extensive discussion, writing, and rewriting. Although they may do so independently to supplement the work of a conventional course, ideally they should work with a teacher in a small class or tutorial session. In any case, students should assume considerable responsibility for the amount of reading and writing they do.

“The AP course in Literature and Composition should engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students should deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers.

Reading in an AP course should be both wide and deep.”

- Advanced Placement Program Course Description

This summer you will read two works in preparation for AP Literature in the fall. The first is *How to Read Literature Like a Professor (Revised Edition)* by Thomas C. Foster. The second work you will choose yourself from the alphabetized master list of AP novels and plays (attached to the email). While you may be tempted to choose a work you have already read, I strongly encourage you to broaden your knowledge base by selecting a new work. Do a little research and pick something that intrigues you—something you’ve always been curious about but never had a chance to read. If you need help selecting a title, I can provide guidance based on your interests.

There are two written activities you will complete in conjunction with the works you read over the summer. There are questions you will answer for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and a “Major Works Data Sheet” for you to complete for the novel or play you select. Both written assignments will be due when we return in August. Academic honesty is treated with the utmost seriousness in this class. This means that I expect all work you submit to be your own, not copied and pasted from a website, transcribed from another source, or written by someone else. Keep in mind that I have access to all the same Internet resources you do and routinely scrutinize the authenticity of student writing in order to preserve an atmosphere of intellectual integrity.

I prefer students to purchase their own copies of the texts we read. I know this isn’t an option for all families, and that’s okay, but one of the most important skills we emphasize in AP Literature is annotation, which is much easier to do when one can highlight and write comments directly into the pages of one’s own books. Buying books used from Amazon.com is often the most cost-efficient option. Students who instead borrow books from the library are encouraged to annotate using sticky notes and a separate notebook. If annotation is a new concept for you, fear not. We will cover this skill in great detail during week one. In the meantime, refer to the attached handout for guidance.

You have plenty of time to complete your summer assignments. Do not make your life miserable by waiting until the last minute. If I were you, I would tackle one book per month, starting with *How to Read Literature* in June, and finishing up with my novel or play in July. Should you run into any problems, please feel free to contact me via email at kwatkins@millingtonschools.org I look forward to working with each of you in the fall.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Watkins

Summer Reading Book 1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (Revised Edition) by Thomas C. Foster. (ISBN-13: 9780062301673) Complete attached questions (following instructions provided on the question sheet).

Summer Reading Book 2: Select a novel or play from the AP Literature Master List. Read and annotate the work (consult the annotation packet for guidance on how to annotate). Complete a “Major Works Data Sheet” over the work you chose (also attached).