

**Summer Reading Assignment
2017-18
AP Literature and Composition**

Instructors:

Mr. DePew room 832 Email: jdepew@interact.ccsd.net

Mrs. Bukaty room 207 Email: spicesk@interact.ccsd.net

This assignment is designed to help you prepare for college and the AP exam, where skills developed by avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond intelligently to the open essay question on the AP exam, and as a student on accelerated block with minimal time in English, summer reading becomes vital to your success. In this summer assignment are your two reading assignments and due dates. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE READING ASSIGNMENT BY THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.** Remember to pace yourself accordingly during the summer break. **Do NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE YOUR READING AND/OR ASSIGNMENTS.** I will recognize last-minute work when I see it.

The summer assignment for AP English not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. **(AP English is for students who love to read and explore literature. If reading is not something you enjoy, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE.)**

Other reasons for the summer assignment include: time constraints during the school year—there just isn't enough time to read all the material necessary to adequately prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam, as well as the need for continuous brain exercise during the summer months. *NO ONE* can afford the cost of having their brain in "stand-by" mode for the eight weeks of summer.

One of the main differences between an AP English class and a regular English class is the amount of effort students are required to put into their work. You will find out very early that an AP student is expected to always put all of their thinking and effort into assignments and readings. This kind of effort is expected on every aspect of the summer assignment.

ASSIGNMENT 1) Read and annotate *The Metamorphosis*. It's short, so it shouldn't be too much of a hardship.

2) After reading, download and complete a Major Works Form.

When annotating, focus on character, literary devices (symbolism, figurative language, tone, POV, characterization, etc.) Make comments, prediction, ask questions. Interact with the text. React to the text.

The *Metamorphosis* (original German title: "Die Verwandlung") is a short novel by Franz Kafka, first published in 1915. It is often cited as one of the seminal works of fiction of the 20th century and is widely studied in colleges and universities across the western world. The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed into an insect. (Amazon)

ISBN-10: 1557427666

A link to a PDF of *The Metamorphosis* is available under "resources" on Mr. DePew's MY.CCSD.NET.

There are a limited number of copies of the PDF in Mr. DePew's room (#832). First come, first serve.

For the Major Works Form:

1. Characters: Write down the name, role and significance of the main characters and 2-3 adjectives that describe each character. Their role and their significance are different. What purpose do they serve in moving the plot forward?

2. Plot Summary: What are the main or most important events that occur in the novel?
3. Author's Style: Describe the author's syntax and diction. If you don't know what these mean or how to apply them, just describe how the author describes events and/or characters. What makes this author stylistically unique or "different"? An example: Give a quote from the text that you feel exemplifies their style.
4. Memorable Quotes: You may need to complete this on a separate sheet of paper. Write down **5** quotes from the beginning, middle and end of the novel and explain why they are important to either character, theme, or the meaning of the work as a whole.
5. Possible Themes: What are **three** themes? Remember a theme is what the author is trying to show us about human nature or life. What can we all relate to? A THEME is an independent clause, not a single word or phrase.

ASSIGNMENT 2)

How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines - by Thomas C. Foster

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey?. Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface--a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character--and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. (Google Books)

Read the book and complete the following assignment. We will address this book the second week back.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

You must answer **twenty** of the following questions fully and completely. Each response should be at least two sentences. Be prepared to discuss them at length the second week of school. Please put thought into each question you answer.

1. What is the "Faust legend?" Why is *RAISIN IN THE SUN* a version of it?
2. How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? Could their importance be over-emphasized? Discuss a time when your appreciation of a work was enhanced by understanding symbol or pattern.
3. How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature?
4. List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read in the form used on p3-5 in the text.
5. What do professors mean when they say, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar?"
6. Choose a meal from a piece of fiction and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.
7. What are the essentials of the Vampire story? Apply this to a novel or story you have read. Now apply these ideas to a section from a novel or to an historical situation.
8. Select three sonnets and show which form they are. Discuss how their content reflects the form. (submit copies of the sonnets, marked to show analysis).
9. Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading specific works.
10. Discuss a work that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pp44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

11. Find a “way the Bible shows up” in something you have read this summer. Explain how this extends or emphasizes the story thematically.
12. Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?
13. Discuss the importance of weather in a specific novel... not in terms of plot.
14. Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.
15. Use the process described on p 106 and investigate the symbolism of the kites in *The Kite Runner*.
16. Assume that Foster is right and “it is all political.” Use his criteria to show that one novel studied from last year is political. (You may choose any novel studied)
17. Apply the criteria on p119 to 4 characters from your AP or pre-AP novels. Create a comparison chart. Try to choose 2 characters that will have many matches and two that will have only a few. Draw some conclusions from this chart.
18. OK... the sex chapters. The ideas from these chapters that will linger with us are 1) the difference between sex scenes in literature and pornography and 2) the idea that sex scenes in good writing usually have a much deeper intent (SYMBOLISM!) than the opportunity to present an interesting human activity. In other words, sex is often suggested with much more art and effort than it is described, and, if the author is doing his job, it reflects and creates theme or character. Choose a novel or movie in which sex is SUGGESTED, but not described, and discuss HOW the relationship is suggested and how this implication affects the theme or develops characterization.
19. Think of a “baptism scene” from a novel or movie. How was the character different after the experience?
20. Discuss at least 5 different aspects of a specific poem or novel that Foster would classify under “geography.”
21. Find a poem (You get bonus points if it is by a poet mentioned in Chapter 20.) that mentions a specific season. Then discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way.
22. Write your own definition for each of these words. A. archetype B. collective unconscious C. resonance D. Frisson
Now write about a song that you like and use all of these words in your writing.
23. Figure out Harry Potter’s scar or Luke Skywalker’s hand or Emperor Furiosa’s arm.
24. Recall four people who died of a disease in a book or movie. Make a chart to see if these deaths reflected the “principles governing the use of disease in literature.” Put a check plus if an aspect was especially a focus. Discuss: Do these principles really determine the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism?
25. After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the Twentieth Century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the Twenty- first Century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.
26. Read the short story “The Garden Party” starting on page 245. Complete the exercise on pages 265-6, following the directions exactly. Then compare your writing with the three examples. How did you do? What does the following essay comparing Laura with Persephone add to your appreciation of Mansfield’s story?
27. From your study of literature, discuss some important aspects of careful and critical reading that Foster does not address in this book.
28. Choose a motif not discussed in this book (as the horse reference on p280) and note its appearance in 3 or 4 different works. What does this idea seem to signify?

Print out/complete hard copies of both assignments. Bring to class by the end of the first week of school—no exceptions!

General notes

There are no short cuts in this class. If you are not willing to do the reading and accompanying assignments, you might want to ask yourself if you are in the right class. This class will prepare you both for The AP exam in May as well as any college English classes you may take.

Content Disclaimer: AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level class. Necessarily, because advanced literature courses deal with all facets of living, there will be talk of life, of death, and of the various human desires. Mature, college-level discussion of topics concerning identity, gender, race, society and class will ensue. Students will fine tune their skills of listening respectfully to each other while participating appropriately in class discussions. If you feel delicate about such things or are easily offended, let's talk together about the challenges you might face. You can expect mature discussions over a wide variety of subjects and topics. Participation in class discussion is a major part of the course, so bring your ideas and opinions.

Your *How to read...* assignment must be typed according to MLA format. If you don't know what that is, look it up. Remember to proofread for proper grammar, word choice, sentence structure, etc. appropriate to a college level class.

Due Dates: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (hard copy only) due second week (8/21 – 8/25)

Major Works *The Metamorphosis* (hard copy only) due first week (8/14 – 18)

Questions/problems: jddepew@interact.ccsd.net spicesk@nv.ccsd.net

Reminders:

The Major Works online form can be found at: my.ccsd.net

A PDF of *The Metamorphosis* can be found at my.ccsd.net

Feel free to read other works over the summer. It doesn't have to be novels on the College Board AP list. Just read!