

2022 AP English Literature Summer Reading

Hello and welcome to AP English Literature! This course is designed to strengthen your writing skills and broaden your abilities in analyzing literature, and I hope you will find the work both challenging and rewarding. In preparation for the course, you are required to do some light work this summer.

Throughout the year we will be reading several novels and plays in preparation for the AP exam.

Assignment 1

Due: First day of School

Please purchase and read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. As you read, use a highlighter/colored pencil to mark 3 to 5 statements that reflect the important points Foster makes in each chapter. Try to capture the lesson that Foster wants readers to take from his chapters. You will turn your highlighted book in on the first day of school as proof of completion of the reading, but you will also use it when we return to analyze your novel choice for the summer. * You are not required to complete Chapter 27: A Test Case.

Assignment 2: Prose Analysis

Due: First Day of School

In addition to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you are also tasked with reading (at least) one of the novels on the summer reading list. The reasoning behind the summer reading is to give students exposure to a wider range of literary works in preparation for the AP exam and for a successful completion of the course curriculum. Please do not rely on summaries, movies, or book notes (Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, etc.) for this assignment, since these are a poor substitute for reading the texts. Follow the format below to complete your assignment.

- Divide your novel into thirds. Use common sense for stopping at chapter breaks instead of exactly on the third of the novel.
- Choose four passages from each third of the novel. Passages should be long enough to get an idea of the author's style (solid paragraph to half a page of text): passages may be written, typed, or photocopied. Do not forget to include the page number.
- For each passage, you may choose to discuss/analyze diction, imagery, syntax, selection of detail, figurative language, tone, point of view, themes, symbols, characterization, or any other tools the writer uses.
- In your analysis, discuss what makes each passage representative of the author's style and what makes each passage memorable/significant. Create this dialectical journal in the format below:

Quote	Context and Analysis (How does the writer use the above literary devices to communicate meaning?) Be sure that your analysis shows how the author's style impacts or illuminates the author's purpose for writing.	Meaning (What is the quote's overall significance or importance to the purpose of the novel?)
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Be sure to discuss a range of stylistic devices within each passage:

- o Theme: the main idea or message of a literary work. Theme is a truth about life revealed through the literature, written as a complete statement. Love is not a theme. What the author is saying about love is the theme (ex: Love is a powerful force that helps overcome all obstacles).
- o Tone: the writer’s attitude toward the topic; identify the writer’s tone and any shifts in tone that occur; words that describe an author’s tone might include critical, angry, sympathetic, caustic, sarcastic, satirical, etc.
- o Diction: the choice of words the author uses. You must identify the types of words that stand out to you when describing diction (Often several words with a similar effect are worth discussion)
- o Syntax: the structure of a sentence; the arrangement of words in a sentence. A discussion of syntax could include such considerations as the length or brevity of the sentences, the kinds of sentences (questions, exclamations, declaratives sentences, rhetorical questions- or periodic or loose; simple, complex, or compound).
- o Figurative Language: the use of words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Common types are simile, metaphor, and personification.

Use this sample dialectical journal from *Little Bee* as a model for your own:

Quote w/ page #	Context and Analysis	Meaning
<p>“Most days I wish I was a British pound coin instead of an African girl. Everyone would be pleased to see me coming. Maybe I would visit with you for the weekend and then suddenly, because I am fickle like that, I would visit with the man from the corner shop instead but you would not be sad because you would be eating a cinnamon bun, or drinking a cold Coca-Cola from the can, and you would never think of me again. We would be happy, like lovers who met on holiday and forgot each other’s names.” (1)</p>	<p>This passage is important because it introduces us to the narrator, who incorporates the use of the second person perspective to engage the reader in her story. The narrator, an African girl, uses an extended metaphor to hypothetically compare herself to a British pound coin. Through this comparison and the personification of the coin, she implies that she is envious of the coin’s mobility, frivolity, and its ability to bring ephemeral happiness to those who encounter it. Her yearning for these qualities introduces the idea that as an African girl, she feels powerless, worthless, and unwanted.</p>	<p>In this opening quote, the character says that she wishes she were a British pound coin instead of an African girl so that people would be happy to see her, and that she could visit with the reader and bring the reader ephemeral and material happiness. She says that if she were money, she and the reader could have a brief, happy, and yet careless/meaningless encounter.</p>

Assignment 3: College Essay Draft

Due Friday, Sept. 2nd

Write a 50- word draft of an application essay required by one of the colleges you will be applying to in the fall. The draft should represent your best writing and storytelling skills. If you have not been given a specific application prompt, you may choose one of the following from the 2022-23 Common App.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Working on your college application this summer? Help yourself to my collection of tips about the essay: <https://pin.it/7Mq2hZa>

I will check my school email, letsweiler@cdschools, throughout the summer. Please send any questions with plenty of time to complete the assignment. I'm looking forward to working with you during your senior year.

Recommended Titles:

Do a bit of research (GoodReads, etc.) before committing to your selection.

- 800 BC – *The Iliad* - Homer
800 BC – *The Odyssey* – Homer
1759 – *Candide* – Voltaire
1811 – *Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen
1813 – *Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen
1838 – *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens
1847 – *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Brontë
1850 – *The Scarlet Letter*
– Nathaniel Hawthorne
1861 – *Silas Marner* – George Eliot
1869 – *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott
1884 – *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
– Mark Twain
1897 – *Dracula* – Bram Stoker
1911 – *Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton
1925 – *Mrs. Dalloway* – Virginia Woolf
1937 – *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
– Zora Neale Hurston
1939 – *The Grapes of Wrath*
– John Steinbeck
1940 – *The Power and the Glory*
– Graham Greene
1943 - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
- Betty Smith
1952 – *Invisible Man* - Ralph Ellison
1952 – *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck
1967 – *The Chosen* – Chaim Potok
1969 – *Slaughterhouse-Five*
– Kurt Vonnegut
1976 – *A River Runs Through It*
– Norman Maclean
1985 – *The Handmaid's Tale*
– Margaret Atwood
1987 – *Beloved* – Toni Morrison
1989 – *A Prayer for Owen Meany*
– John Irving
1990 – *The Things They Carried*
– Tim O'Brien
1992 – *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt
1994 – *In the Lake of the Woods*
– Tim O'Brien
1997 – *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier
1997 – *The Red Tent* – Anita Diamant
1997 – *Memoirs of a Geisha* – Arthur Golden
1998 – *The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver
2001 – *Atonement* – Ian McEwan
2001 – *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel
2002 – *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri
2005 – *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*
– Kim Edwards
2005 – *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
– Jonathan Safran Foer
2006 – *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
2006 - *Kafka on the Shore*
- Haruki Murakami
2008 – *Serena* – Ron Rash
2008 – *Little Bee* – Chris Cleave
2010 – *Room* – Emma Donoghue
2012 – *Salvage the Bones* – Jesmyn Ward
2013 – *The Goldfinch* – Donna Tartt
2014 – *Americanah*
– Chimamanda Adichie
2014 – *All the Light We Cannot See*
-- Anthony Doerr
2014 - *Boy, Snow, Bird* -- Helen Oyoyemi
2014 – *A Man Called Ove* – Fredrik Backman
2015 – *Go Set a Watchman* – Harper Lee
2015 – *The Nightingale* – Kristin Hannah
2017 – *Sing, Unburied, Sing* – Jesmyn Ward
2019 – *Little Fires Everywhere* Celeste Ng
2020 - *Hamnet* - Maggie O'Farrell
2020 - *The Vanishing Half* - Brit Bennett

Suggested Plays:

- Antigone* – Sophocles
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
– Tennessee Williams
A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen
An Enemy of the People – Henrik Ibsen
Our Town – Thornton Wilder
Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett