

AP Literature

Summer Assignment 2020

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!

Discovering and cultivating a love of language is at the heart of the AP Literature class. Through engagement with a variety of complex literary texts, we will develop our critical reading and writing skills during the coming school year. Essentially, this class is an examination of the “what” and “how” writers communicate within imaginative literature.

To achieve this goal, the FCS AP Literature class examines texts from the British Literature Canon as well as a variety of World Literature texts in an effort to expand the breadth and scope of our literary discussions.

We will begin this examination during the summer break with three texts that will continue to feature heavily and connect with other texts throughout the coming school year.

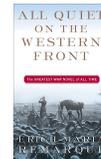
All of the offered Summer Reading texts have been selected with the AP Literature course objectives in mind and will be assessed in a variety of ways within the first few weeks of the school year.

There are two parts to the Summer Reading Assignment. Please read each part carefully and take note of all due dates.

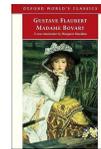
Part 1: The Literary One-To-One Book Club Text

Step 1: Select a novel from the Book Club Reading List...

*All Quiet on the
Western Front*
by Erich Maria Remarque



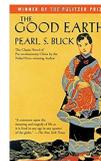
Madame Bovary
by Gustave Flaubert



Things Fall Apart
by Chinua Achebe



The Good Earth
by Pearl S. Buck



Step 2: Significant Quotes Notebook

The significant quotes notebook is your opportunity to keep track of key moments within the Book Club text you are reading. When completed, the notebook should read like a conversation between yourself and the novel. Notebooks can be either hand written or in digital form.

On the left-hand side of the paper or document, copy quotations (with quotation marks) from the book that you think reveal something important about a character, theme, or symbol. Keep these in the order they occur in the book. Remember to write down page numbers for each quotation.

On the right-hand side of the paper or document, directly opposite the quotation, write what you think the significance of the quote is in light of the character, theme, or symbol. In other words, what does this quote reveal about the character, theme, or symbol?

*Keep quotations and your comments lined-up on the page to prevent confusion.

*You should have **at least 25 quotes** from the novel, and they should represent the full course of the novel. Choose wisely.

**A helpful hint...I'm not looking for huge quotations. I want to see that you are reading with a critical mind and are able to pick out some important ideas. I am also looking to see how your ideas might be different from your classmates', so please complete this assignment independently.

DUE DATE: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 11th at the beginning of class.

Part 2: How do we read literature?

The Summer Reading Part 2 Assignment is an introduction to the type of literary concerns covered in the AP Literature and Composition class. The skill of reading complex literature involves knowing the signals and significant elements commonly found within a story. Students will read about these elements and then seek to find them within the novel *The Razor's Edge* by Somerset Maugham.

Step 1: Choose ONE of the following academic text AND read about the study of literature:

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster

How Fiction Works by James Wood

Step 2: Read *The Razor's Edge* by Somerset Maugham

Step 3: Write a one-page essay

You are to compose an essay in which you respond to a topic from a specific chapter in either Thomas Foster's *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* or James Wood's *How Fiction Works* and connect it to your reading of *The Razor's Edge*. Consider the following in your essay (use this as the basis of your organization):

1. What claim(s) does Foster/Wood make regarding this particular idea as it relates to literature?
2. How does this idea relate specifically to *The Razor's Edge*?
3. Does Foster or Wood's claim hold true for *The Razor's Edge*? Explain why it does or does not.

Due Date: First Day of School, August 11th at the beginning of class. See further directions below.

Essay Directions: Carefully follow these guidelines as you prepare your essay:

- ◆ The essay must be exactly ONE PAGE in length. A deduction will be given for essays that are shorter or longer than one page. The essay must extend to at least half of the final line on the page.
- ◆ You do not need a formal introduction on this essay. The first sentence of your essay should be your thesis statement; the rest of the essay should be the body (or meat) of the essay.
- ◆ You do not need a formal conclusion on this essay. A final wrap up sentence should serve as your conclusion for the essay.
- ◆ The essay should be formatted according to MLA guidelines:
 - 1" margins on all sides - Correct page numbering (last name 1)
 - Times New Roman, 12- point font

- Printed on white paper in black ink
- Creative title included (do not put the title in bold)

**The only exception to the MLA rule above is that your paper should NOT include a full heading. In the interest of space, put ONLY YOUR NAME as the heading to the essay.

Keep this in mind: (essay = 100 pts)

1. You must identify the claim(s) Foster/Wood makes regarding the idea you have chosen as it relates to literature generally. (25 points)
2. You must explain how this idea relates specifically to *The Razor's Edge*. (25 points)
3. You must evaluate whether Foster's or Wood's claim(s) holds true for the text. If it does, you must explain how. If it doesn't, you must explain why it doesn't. (50 points)