

AP English Literature and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Literature! This summer, you are assigned four books to begin this course's study of a variety of novels, plays, short stories, and poetry. The selected summer texts will begin our focus on analysis of character, setting, narrative styles, and literary techniques that will ground our course. As you read these texts, consider ways that these seemingly different stories can be drawn into conversation with each other through related themes, conflicts, character dynamics, or narrative structure. You will also complete a written assignment to continue to build the analytical and writing skills that you have already learned and will continue to develop throughout the school year. The required summer reading books are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during the reading process. **All written assignments are due the first full day of school.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Gustin at julia.gustin@saintjosephprep.org.

Required Reading:

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN 9780062301673)
 - Only the following short excerpts are required (we will read more during the year):
 - Introduction, Chp 1, Chp 4, Chp 6, Chp 9, Chp 12, Chp 13, Chp 19, Chp 23, Chp 24, Chp 25, Chp 26, Postlude
- *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin (Vintage; Reprint edition, 2006. ISBN 9780307275936)
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams (New Directions Publishing. 2004. ISBN 9780811216029)
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Algonquin Books; 1st edition. ISBN 978-1616202415)
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (Bantam Classics. ISBN 978-0553211405 or another edition)

Tasks:

1. Please **annotate as you read** each work. This is intended to encourage active reading in which you are engaged in the material and noting important developments or literary elements as you go.
 2. Please write a five page essay discussing a unitive theme or overarching literary element across **THREE** of the novels you read over the summer and how that theme or literary element influenced your understanding of the works as a whole. Your paper should also incorporate and address theme(s)/chapter(s) from Foster's book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, and illustrate the ways in which they connect to or inform aspects of your analysis. **Papers will be due (in hard copy) the first full day of classes.**
 - a. Please try to avoid having your essay function as a *list* of Foster's concepts that apply to your selected texts. You should have an overarching argument for your paper that draws in his concepts to inform your analysis of the texts, but the root of your paper should be analysis of the texts.
- You should write in MLA format, including the proper header, font, margins, etc.
 - You will need to include adequate textual evidence (multiple quotations) with proper parenthetical citations to support your ideas in each body paragraph.