

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition Summer Assignments 2024-25

1. You will be required to read two (2) books in preparation for AP Literature and Composition. You will need to bring both books with you on the first day of school for classroom discussion / activities.
2. You will be required to keep a journal in a notebook / binder where you actively reflect upon your reading through answering specific questions and through a dialectical journal.

All reading and journals are due on the first day of school, no exceptions. Anyone who does not have her/his assignment on the first day of school will receive a zero (0).

All written assignments **must be handwritten, done in ink**, and be aesthetically presentable (must be legible). Points will be deducted if I cannot read your writing.

Required Reading. Read and do the assignments for Book #1 first, and then read and do the assignments for Book #2 second. I want you to use the knowledge you gained from Book #1 to help with your reading and assignment for Book #2.

1. Book #1: *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, REVISED EDITION [The Newer One] (Thomas C. Foster) Non-Fiction
2. Book #2: *All Quiet on The Western Front* (Erich Maria Remarque) Fiction

You will need a copy of each book. Bring both books with you on the first day of school. All books are available at the public library as well as through bookstores.

- Begin by purchasing a spiral-bound notebook. Then...
 - Page 1: Provide some information for me: on the first page, make a chart indicating what major titles you read in English 1, 2, and 3 (a little test to see what you remember! Hahahahahaaaa!).
 - Page 2: Design a reading schedule and deadlines for yourself and write this down on page two of your journal.
 - Page 3 and forward: Your 2-3 paragraph explanation of the introduction to H2RLLAP “How’d he do that?”
 - **Part 1** from H2RLLAP (see the bottom of page 2 and page 3 of this handout for questions)
 - **Part 2** from HTRLLAP
 - **Part 3** from HTRLLAP
 - **Part 4** from HTRLLAP
 - **Dialectical journal** for *All Quiet on The Western Front*

Writing Assignments for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

Note to students: These short writing assignments will let you practice your literary analysis and they will help me get to know you and your literary tastes. Whenever I ask for an example from literature, you may use short stories, novels, plays, or films. **HOWEVER, you may only use films twice, and a YA book once.** If your literary repertoire is thin and undeveloped, use the Appendix to jog your memory or to select additional works to explore. At the very least, watch some of the "Movies to Read" that are listed on pages 318-320.

Even though this is analytical writing, you may use "I" if you deem it important to do so; remember, however, that most uses of "I" are just padding. For example, "I think the wolf is the most important character in 'Little Red Ridinghood'" is padded. As you compose each written response, re-phrase the prompt as part of your answer. In other words, I should be able to tell which question you are answering without referring back to the prompts.

Concerning mechanics, pay special attention to pronouns. Make antecedents clear. Say Foster first; not "he." Remember to capitalize and punctuate titles properly for each genre.

Over the summer, please complete the following writing assignments for your reading of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

READ: Please read the introduction, "How'd He Do That?" and then read each chapter that is listed in each part below.

Example: In Part 1, you need to read Chapters 1, 2 and 4. In Part 2, you need to read Chapters 7, 9, 13 and 14. Etc.

WRITE:

Introduction: "How'd He Do That?" – Write a 2-3 paragraph explanation of Foster's introduction

Part 1: Answer all the Questions

- Chapter 1 "Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)" List the five aspects of the quest and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed) by applying the five questions found on pages 3-5. You will need to write more than just a list!
- Chapter 2 "Nice to Eat With You: Acts of Communion" Choose a meal from a literary work and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.
- Chapter 4 "Where Have I Seen Her Before?" 1) Explain how Tennyson's quote, "A truth looks freshest in the fashion of the day" is applicable to Foster's point. 2) Explain Foster's mushroom analogy.

Part 2: SELECT THREE questions to complete

- Chapter 7 “Hansel and Gretel” Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?
- Chapter 9 “It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow” Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work, not in terms of plot.
- Chapter 13 “It’s All Political” Assume that Foster is right and “it is all political.” Use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you so far in high school is political.
- Chapter 14 “Yes, She’s a Christ Figure, Too” Apply the criteria on p.126 to a major character in a significant literary work. Try to choose a character that will have many matches. This is a particularly apt tool for analyzing film—for example, *Star Wars*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Excalibur*, *Malcolm X*, *Braveheart*, and *Gladiator*, to name a few.

Part 3: SELECT TWO questions to complete

- Chapter 15 “Flights of Fancy” Select a literary work in which flight signifies escape or freedom.
- Interlude—One Story: Write your own definition for archetype. Then identify an archetypal story and apply it to a literary work with which you are familiar.
- Chapter 21 “Marked for Greatness” Figure out Harry Potter’s scar. If you aren’t familiar with Harry Potter, select another character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Part 4: Complete this entire exercise.

- Chapter 27 “A Test Case” Read “The Garden Party” by Katherine Mansfield, the short story starting on page 262.
- Complete the exercise on pages 282-283, following the directions exactly.
- Then compare your writing with the three examples. How did you do?
- What does the essay that follows comparing Laura with Persephone add to your appreciation of Mansfield’s story?

Dialectical Journal for All Quiet on the Western Front:

Pick **15** quotes from All Quiet on the Western Front (AQOTWF) (5 from the beginning/first third, 5 from the middle third, and five from the end/final third) and enter these into your dialectical journal.

Copy the quotes to the left-hand side of the journal, and then respond to the quote on the right-hand side. Here's the general rule of thumb: pick a quote that you think might be important to the entirety of the book. If your Spidey senses are tingling, it's probably important. Keep asking yourself "So what?" while you write your response. You need to specifically address the question "**HOW** does this passage / literary device create meaning in the work?" **Do not merely summarize or paraphrase.**

USE THE INFORMATION YOU LEARNED FROM HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR TO HELP YOU WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT

- While reading AQOTWF, find quotes that:
 - follow a **theme**
 - produce **vivid imagery**
 - show SHIFT in time or character or TONE
 - trace a **character's complexity**,
 - **develop a symbol**, or
 - **seem especially meaningful**.
- Look for literary devices at work:
 - TONE
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - imagery (natural vs. mechanical)
 - or rhetorical devices such as asyndeton, polysyndeton, sentence variety, anaphora, allusion, dialect, ad infinitum.
- **Comment on the literary device and *HOW IT CREATES MEANING!* (HOW does the story mean?)**

-Mr. Doherty