

Parma City Schools
Summer Reading Assignment
for
Students Entering English IV AP (Grade 12)
2025-2026

Welcome to Advanced Placement English IV! Summer vacation is the time to refresh, relax and read as you ready yourself for your senior year in high school.

You are required to read only two books from this selection; however, I encourage you to read more. The wide range of books recommended this summer have been chosen because of their acknowledged literary merit. Many are contemporary novels and may contain mature language and issues. Short descriptions are provided to help you and your parents select books that seem most appropriate for your personal interests and maturity level. (If you would like to read a book of literary merit that does not appear on the list, please email your AP teacher for approval.)

Read the selections in full and submit your own work, which is due on the first day of class. Do not rely on Sparks or Cliffs Notes. Plagiarism of any kind, including sharing answers with your peers, will not be tolerated and will result in a 0.

Assignments (due the first day of class):

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas Foster
2. Read one selection from the multicultural literature list
3. Complete **both** assignments

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Happy reading!

AP English IV (Grade 12) Book Selections

Required Reading

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

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas Foster demonstrates how easy and rewarding it is to get the most of literature, analyzing the craft and meaning present in any work. (Non-fiction)

Multicultural Literature List (Choose One)

House of Spirits by Isabel Allende

The Trueba family saga of love, telepathy and spiritualism is interwoven with the South American political landscape of communism and socialism. First in a trilogy.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

In Gilead, a Christian fundamentalist dystopia, fertile lower-class women serve as birth mothers for the upper class. Far-right ideals have been carried to extremes in this futuristic tale. The resulting society is a feminist's nightmare: women are strictly controlled, unable to have jobs or money and assigned to various classes: the chaste, childless Wives; the housekeeping Marthas; and the reproductive Handmaids, who turn their offspring over to the "morally fit" Wives.

Dreaming in Cuban by Cristina Garcia

Three generations of the Del Pino family, Cuban expatriates, play out their dreams and dramas in Havana, Brooklyn, and the Cuban seaside in the years between 1972 and 1980.

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

A compelling portrait of the perfect English butler and of his fading, insular world postwar England. At the end of his three decades of service at Darlington Hall, Stevens embarks on a country drive, during which he looks back over his career to reassure himself that he has served humanity by serving "a great gentleman." But lurking in his memory are doubts about the true nature of Lord Darlington's "greatness" and graver doubts about his own faith in the man he served.

The Kite Runner

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

The story of the rise and fall, birth and death of a mythical town of Macondo is told through the history of the Buenda family.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world.

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

Tayo, a half-white Native American suffering from battle fatigue following his experiences as a prisoner of war in World War II, undergoes a spiritual journey of healing and renewal in the southwest United States, ultimately facing his own demons and the evils that lurk behind the scenes of reality.

Native Son by Richard Wright

For Biggar Thomas, an African American man accused of a crime in the white man's world, there could be no extenuating circumstances and no explanations, only death.

2024-2025

AP Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

Thomas C. Foster-- *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (HTRLLAP) and one book selection from the reading list

Assignment I (HTRLLAP and Multicultural novel selection)

How to Read Literature like a Professor and your multicultural selection

Complete **three** close reading entries, which includes:

- A summary of a concept (chapter) from Foster's book. The summary should be one complete paragraph.
- An explanation of how the concept is addressed in the novel. In other words, apply one concept from HTRLLAP to your summer reading book. Your explanation should be a separate paragraph and make sure to cite the text in your explanation.
- Each entry should be on a **separate page** and should be no longer than one typed page. You should have a total of three pages.
- Use MLA format and MLA in-text citation.

Assignment II

- Complete the data sheet using your summer reading novel

All summer reading is due on the first day of class. Please **print** out your assignments prior to class.

Summer Reading Rubric (Applied to each paragraph for a total of 36 points)

Grade per paragraph	4 Well above standard	3 At standard	2 Progressing towards standard	1 Below Standard
Writing Style	Virtually free from grammatical errors. Interesting and varied use of syntax and diction.	Some grammatical errors. Varied use of syntax and diction.	Some grammatical errors. Writing is somewhat choppy.	Errors detract from the meaning. Writing is choppy.
Explanation and connection to text	Thorough and insightful explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is accurately summarized.	Clear explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is accurately summarized.	An attempt to explain the connections between HTRLLAP and novel. Chapter from HTRLLAP is somewhat summarized.	No explanation between HTRLLAP and novel. Summary leaves out key ideas
Use of textual evidence	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph and further supports and clarifies ideas. Evidence is skillfully woven into writing or introduced and properly cited	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph, and somewhat supports and clarifies ideas. Evidence is introduced and is cited.	Textual evidence is used throughout paragraph, to support ideas. Evidence is not introduced or citations are incorrect.	Little to no text evidence is use

Assignment II (for the multicultural selection)

For the multicultural novel you chose, complete the Data Sheet, which is worth 25 points. Use direct quotes for your citations.

AP English: Literature and Composition

Name:

Major Works Data Sheet

Title:	Biographical information about the author:
Author:	
Date of Publication:	
Genre:	
Historical information about the period of publication or setting of the novel:	
	Characteristics of the genre:

Describe the author's style	Give a quoted example of the author's style and explain

<i>Memorable Quotes</i> at least 3 – more is better	
Quotation, speaker, page	Significance—What does it mean? And Why does it matter? Explain how the quote reveals theme or character.
1	
2.	
3.	

**Major Works Data
Sheet**

Characters			
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Character Traits
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Major Works Data Sheet

Setting	Significance of the opening scene
Symbols or Motifs (at least three)/explain	Significance of the ending / closing scene
1.	
2.	
3.	
Themes – State two themes (this should be a complete sentence) and explain	