

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2026

The summer assignment for AP Literature and Composition not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. To this end, you will read two books: *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro and *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. You will also be expected to read selected chapters from in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster.

The Books

- *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (Selected Chapters)

Google Classroom

All assignments, journals, and discussions will be submitted through Google Classroom.

Join using this code: **mw66rqi3**

Only work completed/uploaded in Classroom will receive credit.

Summer Reading Assignment Includes:

1. Thematic & Analytical Reading Journals

As you read *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and *Never Let Me Go*, keep a journal in **Google Docs** (submit via Classroom). In each journal, respond *thoughtfully* to the prompts below. You may write in paragraph form or bullet points, but responses must be analytical and supported with references to the text.

- **Minimum:** One entry per 5 chapters (i.e., about 4–5 entries per novel).
- **Each entry** should be 300–500 words.

Journal Prompts (choose at least two per entry):

- *What major themes are emerging, and how are they developed?*
- *How does the author use setting, symbolism, or motif to deepen meaning?*
- *Which moments of choice, memory, or conflict stand out and why?*
- *How is identity shaped by relationships, trauma, or culture?*
- *What connections can you make to Foster's ideas in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*?*

2. Foster Chapter Connections

Read the following **selected chapters** from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* **before or alongside** your novel reading: found online [HERE](#)

- **Required Chapters:**

- Ch. 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest
- Ch. 2 – Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion
- Ch. 10 – It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow
- Ch. 12 – Is That a Symbol?
- Ch. 19 – Geography Matters
- Ch. 22 – He’s Blind for a Reason, You Know

Assignment: For **each novel**, choose **three chapters** from Foster’s book and write a brief (200-250 word) response explaining **how one of Foster’s concepts** enhances your understanding of a particular moment, character, or theme in the novel.

These can be included in your reading journal or submitted as a separate document on Classroom.

Due Dates

- **Reading Journals & Foster Chapter Connections:** Uploaded to Google Classroom by **the first day of classes.**

Grading Criteria

- **Depth of Analysis** – Are your responses insightful, interpretive, and textually supported?
- **Application of Foster’s Ideas** – Do you clearly connect Foster’s chapters to the novels? ●

Clarity and Organization – Are your ideas clearly communicated?

- **Effort and Engagement** – Have you shown a sincere engagement with the material?

Keep in mind that this class is geared to earn you college credit, so your work should be representative of that level of achievement. These summer assignments are the first glimpses your teacher will have into your abilities as a critical reader, thinker, and writer. Therefore, make sure that your writing demonstrates your critical thinking skills, as well as significant time and effort. Also, be forewarned that any possible plagiarism will result in a score of zero on the assignment.