Summer 2026 Reading Assignment
AP English Literature & Composition

1. ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*** **by Thomas C. Foster**
2. ***Purple Hibiscus*** **by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Summer reading serves as an opportunity to restart your academic critical thinking skills before school starts and to think about works of literature as carefully constructed pieces of art with something to say. This summer, you are required to read two books: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. You will also have an assignment that integrates your reading of both books. Please have them read before you come to school in August, and complete the assignment described on the back of this page.

Information about the books…

How to Read Lit . . . is an introduction to the study of literature which reads quite easily and uses numerous literary examples to make its points.

Adichie is a Nigerian writer, and ***Purple Hibiscus*** is a coming-of-age novel about a 15-year-old girl named Kambili who has a complicated and abusive father. The book takes place with the background of Nigerian political unrest of the 1990's. It also addresses the conflict between traditional Igbo (*ee-boh*) culture and Western culture in a post-colonial society. **You will find it useful to maintain a list of all the character names and relationships as you read.** They're not difficult, but sometimes unfamiliar names are harder to remember and follow. **Also, you should write down questions you have about both books as you read so you can ask when you return to school.** Nothing is too trivial. It's better to ask instead of let it go.

Please read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* FIRST because it will be used as a foundation for your reading and study of *Purple Hibiscus*. If you read either book early in the summer, be prepared to reread or study them just before school starts. Not only will you be tested over both books, you will also complete a close literary analysis of *Purple Hibiscus* within the first two weeks of school.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Mrs. Conely or Mrs. Jeffery by email over the summer: kconely@usd259.net or hjeffery@usd259.net.

- **All of this work is due on the first day of class. A late penalty will be deducted for any work turned in after the first day.**
- **If you do not complete the summer reading, your grade will be in jeopardy on the first day of school!**

CONTINUED ON BACK

For each of the 15 Foster chapters listed below, keep a handwritten reading journal in which you do the following: a.) briefly explain the "gist" of the chapter (what are Foster's main points for that chapter?), and b.) describe how the principles from that chapter are at play in Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus.* Each answer should be a minimum of 5 complete sentences.

1. Introduction: How'd He Do That?
2. Every Trip is a Quest
3. Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion
4. Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires
5. It's More than Just Rain or Snow
6. ...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence
7. Is That a Symbol?
8. It's All Political
9. Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too
10. It's All About Sex...Except Sex (two chapters to consider together)
11. If She Comes Up, It's Baptism
12. Geography Matters…
13. Interlude: One Story
14. Marked for Greatness, He's Blind for a Reason, You Know, It's Never Just Heart Disease...And Rarely Just Illness (three chapters to consider all-in-one).
15. Is He Serious? And Other Ironies