


# 2026-27 A.P. Literature and Composition Summer Reading

This course will be **reading and writing intensive**, and built with a substantial amount of choice and responsibility placed on students. That choice and responsibility will start during the summer. Students are expected to read the books and complete the following assignments prior to the first day of class:

NAME:

## Part 1: Read How To Read Literature Like a Professor

Use the following document to read and respond to the six selected chapters of Thomas Foster's How To Read Literature Like a Professor. If you would like a hard copy of the textbook, you are welcome to order one. However, a digital copy of the text is available on the assignment link below. This text will help you focus on the complexities authors embed into their writing to help develop meaning.

<b>PART ONE ASSIGNMENT:</b> Download a copy of this PDF or Google Doc to complete	<b>LINK URL:</b> PDF: (download and edit) <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xPOh1mGikuZoQGjIRNH8gYTPJtmQa5Hf/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xPOh1mGikuZoQGjIRNH8gYTPJtmQa5Hf/view?usp=sharing</a> GOOGLE DOC: (make a copy) <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tng5yaYgnWCNM7w37Oo-1IOOTv2_0SyNr2KlhKp_a2g/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tng5yaYgnWCNM7w37Oo-1IOOTv2_0SyNr2KlhKp_a2g/edit?usp=sharing</a>	<b>QR Code:</b> 
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## Part 2: Read one of your choice from the following:

*Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison\*

*Indian Killer* by Sherman Alexie\*

*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

*The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath\*

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini\*

*\*contains sensitive material*

Read your selected novel independently and fill out the Major Works Data Sheet (MWDS) attached to this document. The purpose of the MWDS is to create a study guide or a map of your reading. It will require some research (author's background, history, maybe important quotations, etc.). Be thorough and specific in your details. You will use this data sheet and other projects to help you review for the AP Exam in May, so it benefits you to be thorough.

As part of your reading of one of the novels listed above, I want you to be informed about how the class will be structured. I think you knowing will encourage you to read with a different kind of purpose. Yes the MWDS is important; however, I have found that students find it tedious. Be that as it may, it is important to have a source you have created that maps your reading. Units will be centered on studying major novels, short stories, and/or dramas. Sometimes the novel will be my choice, sometimes it will be yours, and sometimes you will be reading one for me and one on your own. Poetry and excerpts from other works from various literary movements will also be covered. The most important part will be that you are learning to research, read, and write at an academic level. It is essential that you are reading all works **critically**, else your writing will be "mere plot summary," and that will not suffice on the AP exam.

Happy reading and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you next year!

Sarah Vecera

Sarah.Vecera@dvusd.org

**DUE AUG. 7**

You will eventually submit your HTRLLAP assignments on Canvas, and your MWDS to the class inbox.

*Note on the novels/plays: The works we read may or may not deal with mature themes, diction, or syntax. Issues that might, from a specific cultural viewpoint, be considered controversial, including depictions of nationalities, religions, ethnicities, dialects, gender, or class, are often represented artistically in works of literature. AP students are not expected or asked to subscribe to any one specific set of cultural or political values, but are expected to have the maturity to analyze perspectives different from their own and to question the meaning, purpose, or effect of such content with the literary work as a whole. This AP literature class is intended to serve as a surrogate to or for a college literature class where writings are judged upon merit without regard for every social norm. Therefore, a mature perspective is required and necessary.*

### Major Works Data Sheet

Scored on effort and details!

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_


Biographical information about the author :

Historical information about the period of publication: *(Key events, culture, politics, news, wars, etc. that might influence the writer's perspective and content while writing)*

Characteristics of the literary genre:

Plot summary: *These will be notes to review for the AP Exam in May, so try to be specific and precise with relevant details*

Describe the author's style:



An example from the text that demonstrates this style:

***Memorable Quotes: You must have a minimum of five***

Quote (include page number)	Explain the Significance/Meaning—Why is important? How does it connect to larger themes and ideas?

Characters			
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Adjectives to describe

Setting(s) (location, time period, culture, weather etc.)	<i>Significance</i> of the opening scene (What is the opening scene, and why is it <i>meaningful</i> ?)
Symbols (3-5 examples with explanations)	<i>Significance</i> of ending/closing scene (What is the closing scene, and how does to help reinforce key themes?)
<p><b>Possible Thematic Statements (at least 3)—Please state in <u>complete</u> sentences. Remember that thematic statements should be UNIVERSAL (they could be applied to other works) and SPECIFIC (don't just say the theme is <i>family</i>, but what about the concept of <i>family</i> is the author conveying?)</b></p>	
<p><i>Ex. In Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, he explores the dangerous consequences of overreliance on technology. He asserts that this dependence severs individuals from their humanity through the destruction of freedom and truth.</i></p>	