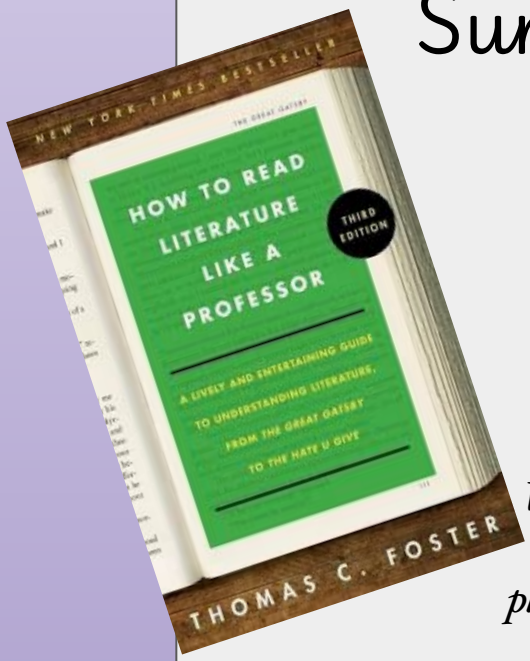
2026
AP Literature & Composition Summer Assignment

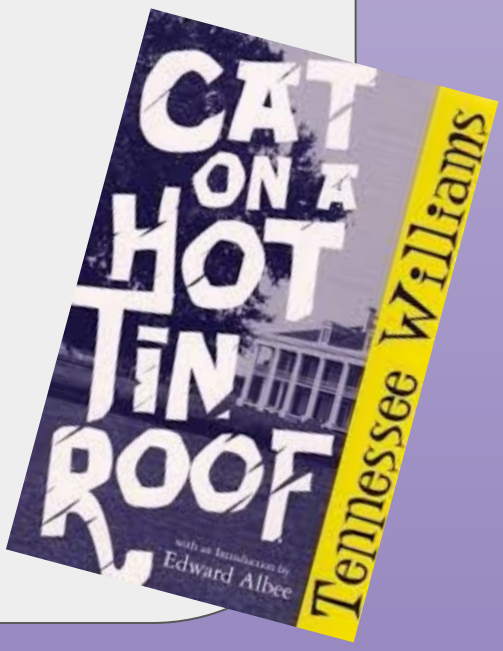


Read & Annotate

Read Thomas C. Foster's How to Read Literature Like a Professor (ISBN 978-0063307742)

While you are reading, annotate the text for: character, setting, plot/structure, narrative voice, diction, imagery, symbolism, comparisons, irony, allusions, tone, vocabulary, and ideas from Foster you see at work in the play.

Read



Read Tennessee Williams's drama Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (ISBN 978-0811216012)

The Disagreement Essay

Complete the following task. Make sure to allow for time on your part and your partner's.

This assignment asks you to find another reader of the play (such as a parent, sibling, friend, classmate, neighbor, etc.) who reads it this summer alongside you and ***write an essay that disagrees with their interpretation of one character or scene***. Your disagreement must be real, not staged. Your representation of their position must be fair enough that they will sign off on it.

Part 1: Find an Interlocutor

Identify someone who will read the play with you over the summer. They don't need to read it on the same schedule as you, but they should finish it before you write the essay. They must be a real person you can speak to, thus not an online forum or a published critic.

Part 2: Have the Conversation

After you've both finished the play have a conversation of at least 20 minutes about ***one*** of the following questions. Take notes because your interlocutor's position must be clearly and accurately articulated.

a. Is Maggie's final lie an act of love, manipulation, or survival, and does the play want us to distinguish between these differences?
b. Does Big Daddy deserve sympathy, or has he forfeited it? Where does your reader sympathy shift and why?
c. Who is the most responsible for Brick's condition at the play's opening – Brick himself, Maggie's overtures, or the world that killed Skipper?
d. Is Gooper simply a greedy, calculating opportunist, or is he a victim of parental neglect?
e. Is Big Mama's unwavering devotion to Big Daddy a testament to genuine and unconditional love, or is it a form of mendacity she has created to survive verbal abuse and humiliation?

Part 3: The Response (500-700 words)

- Begin by ***stating your interlocutor's position***; state it in your words, but state it fairly. Don't strawman. Have them read this section and sign off that it is an accurate representation of their position.
- Then, state your own thesis, which must genuinely disagree with their position
- Develop your argument with at least two pieces of textual evidence and analytical commentary.
- Acknowledge the strongest evidence your interlocutor could cite to support their position and explain why your reasoning of that evidence is more convincing.
- Conclude with a statement that acknowledges what the disagreement itself reveals about the play; in other words, what it means that two careful readers can arrive at genuinely different conclusions.

The Sign Off

Your interlocutor should read the first portion of your response that captures their position and have them affirm via an attached "Voice Vouch" or a text/email screenshot.

"I have read the representation of my position, and confirm that it's a fair and accurate account of the view I expressed in conversation."

Evaluation Criteria

Accuracy/fairness of interlocutor position . . 15%
Thesis of genuine disagreement 25%
Textual evidence & analysis 30%
Engagement w/ counter-evidence 15%
Conclusion of nuanced revelation 10%
Counter signature obtained & submitted . . . 5%

What to Expect
What AP Stands For
Academic Integrity

In an AP English Literature and Composition class, you can expect a rigorous exploration of literary works spanning various genres, time periods, and cultures. You'll delve deeply into analyzing prose, poetry, and drama, honing your critical thinking skills as you interpret themes, characters, and literary techniques. Expect lively discussions, close readings, and writing assignments that challenge you to articulate your insights coherently and persuasively. You'll likely encounter complex texts that require careful attention and multiple readings to fully grasp their meaning and significance. Overall, the course aims to cultivate your appreciation for literature while preparing you for the AP exam through intensive study and practice.

As the AP English Literature course description states: "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 within the literary work as a whole." (https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/what-ap-stands-for)

The unethical practice of taking, copying, borrowing someone else's work or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own is called plagiarism. Plagiarizing this assignment, or any assignment in this class, will result in a ZERO and you will not be allowed to redo it. Please note that your work should always be your own. Plagiarism includes services provided by AI. AI generated work is not yours. You did not create it. **The use of AI on this assignment and any other assignment in this class, will result in a ZERO and you will not be allowed to redo it.**

Quite simply, if you need to copy someone else's work or use AI to answer your work, you are not ready for college courses.

Checklist

- I have read How to Read Literature Like a Professor, & I'm ready to be assessed on its contents within the first two weeks back.
- I have read and annotated Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, & I'm ready to discuss deeply and analytically with my brilliant peers.
- I have composed a masterful, position-based disagreement response of 2-3 pages ready to be submitted by no later than August 17, 2026.



If you have any questions, please email:
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