

AP Lit & Comp: Great Books, Level 4 (W234434)

The Sense of an Ending, Barnes

ISBN-13: 978-0307947727

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How to Read a Book, Adler

ISBN-13: 978-0671212094

For the summer assignment, you will first need to read and annotate Chapters 14 & 15 (to page 216) from Adler's *How to Read a Book*. When you complete this, make a list of Adler's rules for reading imaginative literature, and then compare that list to what you've been taught before in your prior English classes. We will continue reading *How to Read a Book* during the school year.

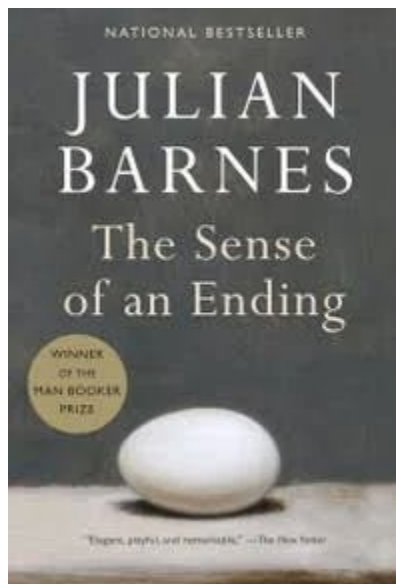
Once you have completed that, read and annotate the entirety of Barnes' novel, *The Sense of an Ending*, applying the rules for good reading both that Adler suggests, and the ones you've internalized from other classes.

When you finish both readings, write a **1-page (250-300 word)** personal reflection, based on your annotations. In particular, consider one of Adler's maxims for imaginative literature: "...imaginative books teach only derivatively, by creating experiences from which we can learn. In order to learn from such books, we have to do our own thinking about experience..." (202). Think about the "experience" you had in reading Barnes' novel and take one of two approaches:

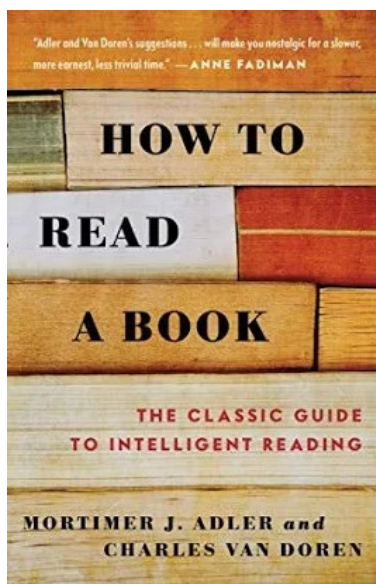
- Did it teach you something? If so, what, and where in the text did this happen most clearly for you, and why?
- Did it make you question something? If so, what, and where in the text did this happen most clearly for you, and why?

Please have your book(s) with annotations and written reflection ready on the first day of class. You will be handing them in.

[**Trigger warning note:** This story includes references to two suicides—no graphic descriptions, but if needed, contact zwirnere@newtrier.k12.il.us for an alternate text.]



The Sense of an Ending is a novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single sitting. This intense novel follows Tony Webster, a middle-aged man, as he contends with a past he never thought much about — until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony thought he left this all behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.



“With more than half a million copies in print...*How to Read a Book* remains a rare phenomenon—the definitive guide to reading comprehension and retention for students of literature, scholars across disciplines—and anyone who simply loves to read.” This book offers practical advice on reading different genres, from philosophy to imaginative literature, and guides students in classifying different types of texts. Adler’s methodology for annotating non-fiction - and his approach to determining what kinds of *questions* we ask of a text - underpin much of the work in AP Great Books. This text is required reading, and completing two chapters over the summer gives you a headstart!