

To prepare for the rigor of this AP course, complete the following summer assignment. I will be evaluating not only your ability to critically analyze literature, but also your ability to follow directions with accuracy. Make sure that you have read through the entirety of this document before beginning this assignment. The purpose of this assignment is to expose you to some of the possible works that may pop up on the AP Exam that we may not have time to cover in class. These assignments will also challenge you to think critically and analyze texts similar to how you will be asked to analyze texts on the AP Exam. Remember this: Your submission for this assignment will be my first impression of you as an AP student. Late assignments are absolutely unacceptable in this class. As AP students, you are expected to put forth your best effort.

Students who use AI for any portion of this work, including tools that fix/enhance writing like Grammarly, will be turned in to Mr. Harris for an Honor Code violation, be required to re-do the summer reading, and receive only UP TO HALF CREDIT.

Please acquire the following texts:

1. *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, Revised 7th edition, by Thomas C. Foster
2. *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
3. One (1) novel from the students choice list (found in task 3) of frequently referenced AP literature books

Task 1: Begin by reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. As you read and annotate, respond to the following journal entries for the corresponding chapters using in-depth thoughtful responses. Journal entries should be submitted in a properly MLA formatted word document to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Please include headings at the beginning of each journal entry response to indicate the chapter to which you are responding. All entries are to be submitted by 11:59 PM August 1st, 2026

You will email this assignment to me here: Bucherl@hoban.org

The subject line should be: Last Name HTRLLAP Journal Responses

Example: Bucher HHRLAP Journal Responses

Introduction – How’d He Do That?

1. How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature?
2. How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature?
3. Discuss a time when your appreciation of a literary work was enhanced by understanding symbol or pattern.

Chapter 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It’s Not)

List FIVE aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed) in the form used on pages 3-5.

1. What is Foster’s overall point about journeys or trips in literature?

Chapter 4 – Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

1. Define “intertextuality.”
2. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading specific works.

Chapter 24 – Don't Read with Your Eyes

1. Choose a scene or episode from a novel, play, or epic written before the twentieth century.
2. Contrast how it could be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century

TASK 2: Once you have finished *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, please read *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles and respond to the AP Literature and Composition prompt in bold and italics below. Use what you have learned in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster to help you! Your response should be word-processed and strictly follow MLA formatting rules. It must be emailed no later than **11:59 PM August 1st, 2026**. The subject line of your email should be Last Name Oedipus. There will never be a required paper length for this class – use as much space as it takes you to write a well-developed and well-supported essay response. A copy of the text may be found here: [Oedipus Rex](#)

Choose from one of the prompts below:

Choice #1: The idea of fate/karma is prevalent in literature. Explain how Oedipus exemplifies this theme discussing how it functions to further both the plot and moral of the play.

Choice #2: *Oedipus Rex* features a character whose origins are unusual or mysterious. Then write an essay in which you analyze how these origins shape the character and that character's relationships, and how the origins contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Choice #3: Does the downfall of Oedipus result from a tragic flaw? If not, explain the cause for the downfall in detail, creating an alternate argument. If so, identify the tragic flaw and discuss how this impediment leads to Oedipus' downfall.

In your response, you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

TASK 3: Please choose and read ONE additional book from the following Student's Choice list.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Leavers by Lisa Ko

Please type the written pieces of this project using MLA formatting rules, and bring a copy (digital or otherwise) the first day of class. You will be using this summer work to create a group project to present the first week of class.

Step One: Choose 2 passages from your chosen novel (no more than 1 ½ pages in length), selected from different sections of the book, that can be analyzed for any 3 of the following literary elements: tone, diction, imagery, setting, point of view, figurative language, narrative perspective, or characterization.

Step Two: Annotate each passage for at least 3 examples of each chosen literary element (9 total per passage).

Step Three: Choose ONE of the three literary elements for the first passage about which to write a literary analysis paragraph (8 sentences minimum).

TASK 4: College Essay Rough Draft - due Monday, August 31st

Directions: Considering the directions/instruction provided by your Junior teacher at the end of last school year, please write the first draft of your College Application Essay. You may write on any of the prompts listed below. Your first draft MUST be a complete essay. It must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. You will be working with your teacher to “perfect” this piece of writing at the beginning of the school year. It is very important that you have a working rough draft of the college essay by the first day of school! The word limit is a strict limit of 650 words!

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Questions?? Please email Mr. Bucher at bucherl@hoban.org