AP SPANISH LITERATURE & CULTURE

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026

Readings: *El Conde Lucanor* and *Lazarillo de Tormes*

(Please refer to the attached readings.)

Bienvenidos a AP Spanish Literature & Culture!

This summer assignment is designed to strengthen the analytical, interpretive, and critical-thinking skills necessary for success in AP Spanish Literature & Culture. The selected readings introduce foundational themes and literary traditions that will be explored throughout the course, including:

Societies in Contact
The Construction of Gender
The Creation of Literary Spaces
The Development of Identity

Through these works, you will encounter two important literary traditions:

- **El Conde Lucanor** – Medieval exempla, frame narratives (*metacuentos*), and moral instruction.
- **Lazarillo de Tormes** – The birth of the picaresque novel and social criticism.

READING REQUIREMENTS

A. *El Conde Lucanor*

- Introduction
- Ejemplo XXXV: *"Lo que sucedió a un mancebo que casó con una mujer muy fuerte y muy brava"*

B. *Lazarillo de Tormes*

- Introduction
- Prólogo
- Tratado Primero
- Tratado Segundo

PART I: READING JOURNAL (40 Points)

Complete thoughtful responses to the following prompts:

A. El Conde Lucanor

Entry 1: Explain how Patronio uses storytelling to advise the conde.

Entry 2: Analyze the moral of the story:

"Si al comienzo no muestras quién eres, nunca podrás después cuando quisieres."

B. Lazarillo de Tormes

Entry 4: Describe Lázaro's childhood and family circumstances.

Entry 5: Analyze the relationship between Lázaro and the ciego.

Entry 6: Explain how hunger functions as both a literal and symbolic force in the novel.

Entry 7: Identify three examples of social criticism in the text.

Entry 8: How does Lázaro survive despite adversity?

PART II: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS (Nothing to turn in)

Be prepared to discuss:

1. How does literature reflect the values of its society?
2. What is the role of storytelling as a teaching tool?
3. How does poverty influence identity?
4. What makes a hero different from a *pícaro*?
5. How do authors criticize society through fiction?

AP VOCABULARY TO KNOW

pícaro • metacuento • exemplum • marco narrativo • narrador • ironía • crítica social • caracterización • hipérbole • tema • moraleja • sociedad medieval

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DUE DATE

First Day of AP Spanish Literature & Culture

Submission Requirements

✓ Reading Journal

Total: 100 Points

*** Looking Ahead**

This assignment will serve as the foundation for our first AP Literature unit and will prepare you for the analytical reading, literary discussion, and essay writing expected throughout the course.

Read carefully. Think critically. Arrive prepared to discuss.

¡Nos vemos en agosto!