

TMSA -AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading and Writing Assignment 2023 - 2024

Course: Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

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I am so excited that you have decided to take Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. Welcome to this course! I am hoping you will share my excitement and find it well worth the effort during your senior year of high school. The main objective of this AP course is to engage you in the close study of imaginative literature - reading it, appreciating it, analyzing it, and discovering ourselves and the world through it. I look forward to a challenging and enriching year exploring literature through our unique perspectives!

Preparing for the AP Course:

Through this course, you will improve your ability to analyze literature and express yourself in AP-style essays. As an AP English Literature student, you should be reading as much as possible throughout the summer. For reference, here's [this list](#) of the most frequently cited AP texts. As a basic rule, ***keep track of the books you read over the summer and take some notes*** to help you remember what was most important about each of them (eg: plot/conflict, setting, character and theme).

If you are curious to explore this course and its exam, visit the [homepage for the course](#) and access the [course description](#). I encourage you to answer the 19 multiple choice questions without any pressure. (pp. 148-154 of the course description). Check your answers (p. 159) and record your score to monitor your progress.

Reading Assignment:

The major expectation for AP English Literature and Composition is that you **read!** Other than reading from [this list](#) shared above, you are encouraged to complete the **two parts of this pre-course reading** assignment. Please do not wait until the last week of summer. Trust me, I know summer is the **time for all of us to recharge**, but small doses of planned reading will avoid overwhelm, and at the same time give you an advantage for the initial assignments when we return to school. The idea is not to cause overwhelm, but to get you excited and thinking about the course.

Part 1: Part 1 of this reading assignment requires you to read **Thomas Foster's guide *How to Read Literature like a Professor***. You'll enjoy the tone - it's very enthusiastic, humorous and easygoing. Buy a personal copy so that you can write your notes in the margins before organizing them in an outline. If you have a tablet, highlight and annotate as you read.

Part 2: For part 2, you are to **choose one novel** from the list of 5 options below.

Reader's Choice AP Lit Students:

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

Enjoy your novel and at the same time use any interpretative strategies from Foster's guide to facilitate the analysis of your selection. As you read your second selection, have Foster's outline nearby and annotate using post-its or a journal. Be smart!

Writing: *Google docx; due at the end of second week of class

Using a google document, write an expository essay (*there is no specific word limit*) that analyzes and applies what you learned from Foster's guide to your reading selection. You are expected to use direct quotes from Foster's book and the novel of choice to support your analysis of your selected novel. For example, if (while you're reading) you notice a fairy tale or Shakespearean parallel, develop that analysis by pairing the textual evidence from the book with Foster's analysis in his work. Continue to identify and discuss as many elements as you can. **You must identify at least three elements. This will be a summative grade due before the end of 2nd week of class and I will be setting up an assignment for it in Schoology.**

***Important point to remember:** I don't expect it to be flawless. Simply demonstrate your ability to discuss a literary work with insight and evidence. I always tell my students this

-There are no wrong answers; I am keen to know your thoughts and your interpretation.

SUMMER READING and WRITING ASSIGNMENT OUTLINE

- Read Foster's guide and one of the selections from the list provided.
- Write an expository essay for the following prompt: *Based on Foster's guide, what literary elements are employed by the author of your reading selection?*
- You **MUST identify at least 3 literary elements** that the author uses based on Foster's text **using direct quotes** from your novel and include analysis and commentary to support the connection using Foster's text. **Include the specific chapter and element from Foster's text to which you are drawing connections.**
- *Avoid paraphrasing. I need to hear your voice and argument.*

Don't forget to have a wonderful summer!

If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at psharma@tmsacademy.org, and I'll be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer, and I'll see you on the first day of your senior year!

Cheering you on,
Mrs. Sharma

**References: Newton County, Derek Chase*