

AP English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2017-18

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Welcome to AP English Literature! I am really excited that you have chosen this path your senior year, and am equally excited about the literature we will be reading and discussing together. It is important to note that AP courses require more reading and writing than other courses and since many of you will also have other AP classes, it is important to not get behind in the assignments.

The summer reading assignment is not busy work; for you to do well on the AP exam, it is important that you have a broad knowledge of different types of literature. Summer is a great time to read without the added pressures of other classes, and the books assigned for the summer will be discussed throughout the year. It is important that you complete the assignments for each—please don't wait until the last week of summer!

I will be available by email (see above) all summer and would love to discuss the books you will be reading; in fact, please email me so I can start an AP mailing list for important updates and information.

Required Assignments:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, by Thomas C. Foster (I do have some copies of this if you need to borrow one before school's out in May).
 - a. Complete the attached chart. It is due on the first day of class.

2. *Pygmalion*, by George Bernard Shaw (1913). A short play that has many of the literary elements we will discuss throughout the year. You will need to purchase your own copy of this play, although you can probably find an online version.
 - a. View the movie *My Fair Lady* (1964). Then, write a 1-page typed analysis of how the transformation of Eliza Doolittle is portrayed in the play versus the movie. Address how the characters of the play and movie are developed (what did the author/directors use to help us understand who the characters were).

- 3 Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (this is widely available) and complete the assignment below:
 - a. Create book cards for this novel using the directions on the next page.

Book Card Directions: Use 4X6 note cards. Use ONE side of a note card for each number below (unless otherwise directed).

1. Authorial Background:

The where, when born, what's going on his or her country at the time. What happens to make him/her write this work. Also include other significant works he/she has written.

2. Literary Period/Country:

Place the work in the right country and the right literary time period. Define the years of time period and publication date. What were the general literary movements of the time (realism, naturalism, etc.)? Define and comment on them and how this work fits—or or doesn't.

3. Setting:

Time, place—significance to the work—or not. Millieu—customs of the area—culture.

4. Characters (at least 6 cards here)

a. On the front of the card, list the details of the character. Describe how the character is important to the plot and the major character (if it isn't the main character).

b. On the back of the card, include 2 quotes from the work that are either said by the character or said by other characters about him/her.

5. Theme (s):

Using one side of each card, fully discuss each theme. You should discuss 3.

6. Plot Summary:

Using the front and back of one card provide a detailed summary of the novel. Later this will help you remember the book.

7. Literary devices unique to the work:

Using one side of a note card for each, discuss 4 literary techniques used in the novel. These can include symbols, allusions, motifs, etc. Show how each is developed.

8. Significant Passage:

Choose a passage from the book that STRUCK you as memorable or outstanding. Explain what happened in the scene and relate its significance to the work.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor Chart

Chapter	Summary of Key Points	Example from Book You've Read
Ch. 1: "Every Trip Is a Quest"		
Ch. 3: "Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires"		
Ch. 6: "When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare"		
Ch. 7: ". . . Or in the Bible"		
Ch. 10: "It's More Than Just Rain or Snow"		
Ch. 11 ". . . More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence"		
Ch. 12: "Is That a Symbol?"		
Ch. 13: "It's All Political"		
Ch. 18: "If She comes Up, It's Baptism"		
Ch. 22: "He's Blind for a Reason, You Know"		
Ch. 23: "It's Never Just Heart Disease . . ."		

