



AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 2017-2018

Dear A.P. English Literature Student,

You have elected to take a most exciting class in your senior year which requires a great deal of dedication and effort.

Please read below for the summer reading assignments (Parts I-III) for this course. Read the material carefully before beginning the assignments. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to e-mail me. Be sure to complete all the assignments prior to the first day of school. Assignments in this class are only accepted on or before the due date, and all work must be submitted by hard copy and through turnitin.com. By preparing in advance, you will enhance the possibility of achieving a score of 4 or 5 on the A.P. Exam, as well as easing the burden of the heavy reading necessary for this college level class. Don't forget that you will have other responsibilities during the coming year, but not to the exclusion of your obligations for this class!

The more you read, the better reader you will become.

Have a well-deserved rest and a great vacation!

Sincerely,

Mica Bloom

English Department Chair

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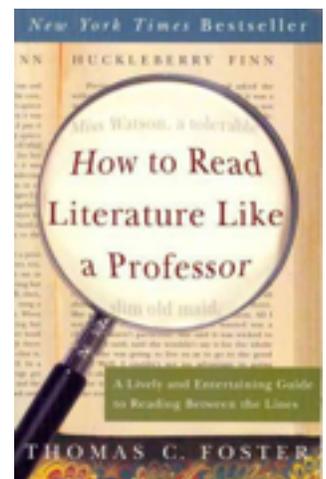
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Yes, assignments plural! Please note that it does not say “Summer Reading Assignments,” as there is a lot of writing involved. First words of AP Lit Wisdom: do not, do not, do not, DO NOT wait until the weekend before school begins to start your work!

Remember, “To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting” - Edmund Burke

PART I – Read How to Read Literature like a Professor

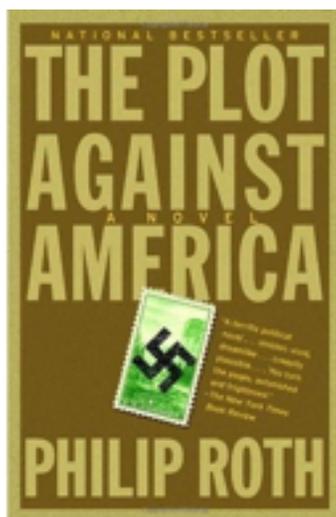
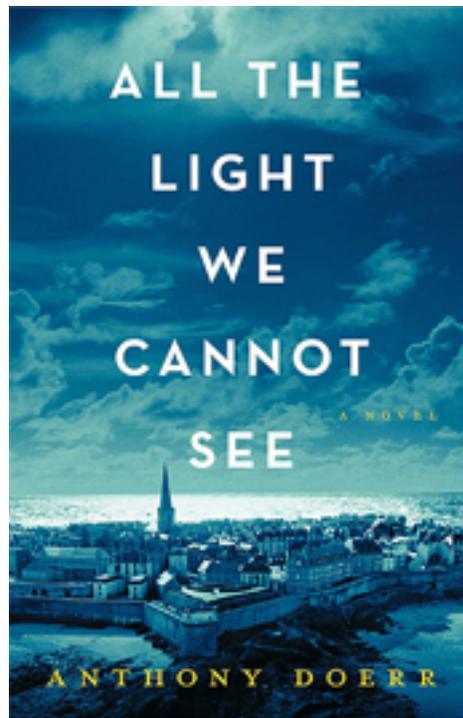
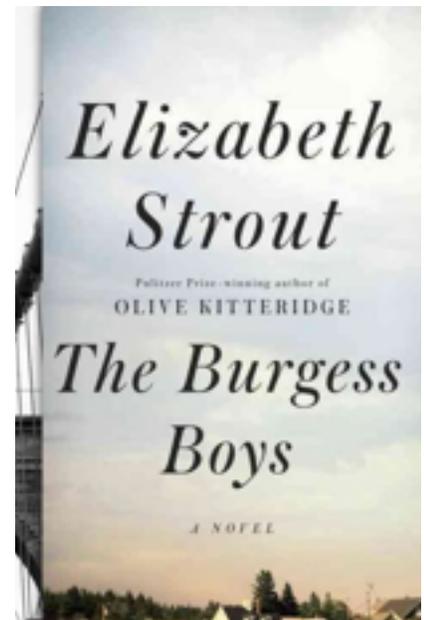
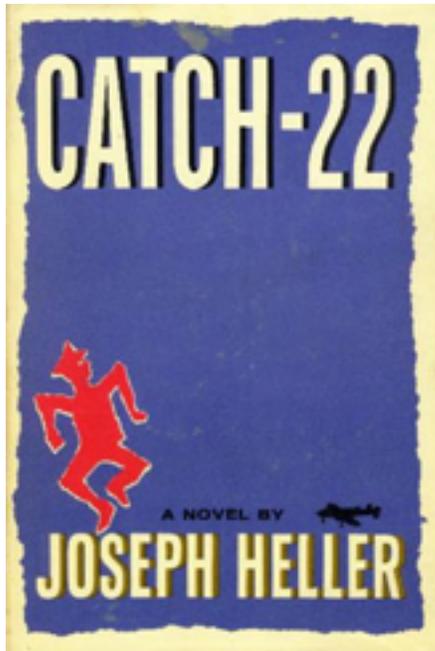
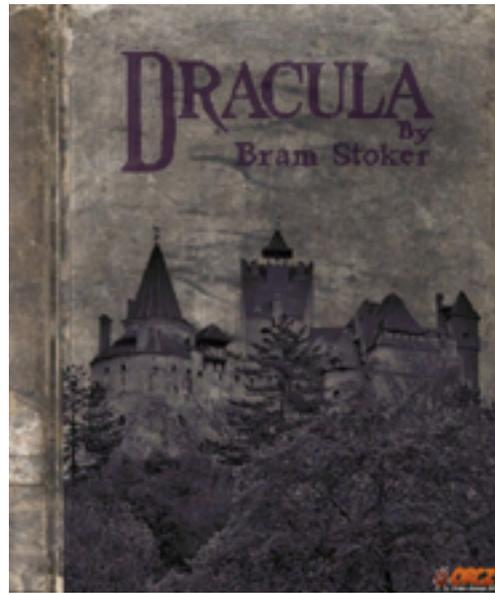
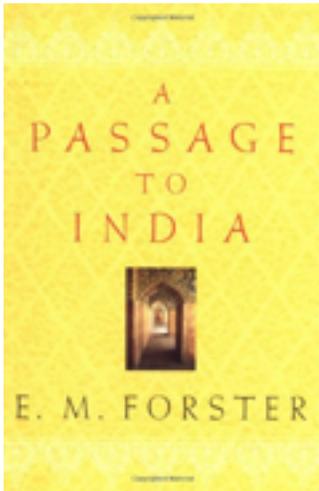
Thomas Foster’s excellent book **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** is the first place to start. This is an exceptionally helpful text as Foster focuses on literary essentials: literary models, motifs and narrative devices, and major themes. Hopefully some of what you read will be familiar to you, and some will be new, allowing you to read your summer novels with fresh ideas. It is important that you read this book first, as it will be of great help to you.



Part II : Book of Your Choice and Essay

After reading one book from the list below, complete the following essay:

Writing Assignment: After reading your chosen book (see below), you will write a 2-3 page critical analysis using three of the techniques that Foster details in the book **How to Read Literature Like a Professor**. Your essay must include a strong, arguable thesis supported by adequate textual evidence, and be at least 5-6 paragraphs in length (including an introduction and conclusion). Avoid plot summary. This assignment will be collected on the FIRST day of school; please note that late assignments will be penalized 5 points for each day the assignment is late. In other words, don't be late!





Part III:

Read **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens and then complete the quotes project that follows: Quotes Project (Source: Anne Arvidson –presenter at NCTE Convention)

Part A: Use Post-It notes to mark passages as you read. Every time you encounter a particularly important, provocative, dramatic, surprising, or even disturbing passage, mark it with a Post-It note. Only when you have completed the novel will you look at all those passages (and all the sticky notes!) and decide which to analyze. When you are done reading your book, you will select **5** passages from the novel (beginning, middle and end). Copy the passages down (including page numbers) and then write about each passage in the following ways. See Part B.

Part B: First, in a well-written paragraph explain how each passage — “fits” into the novel. Discuss the importance of the passage to the book’s message, meaning or theme. Also, react to the passage as a reader. Help me understand **WHY** you have selected this passage. Incorporate text support into your analysis. To generate responses, you can consider the following as suggested prompts or questions:

- Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
- Do you find the author’s use of language appealing or powerful? Does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
- Does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it? Does it present itself as so well-crafted that you just love the sound of it? Is the language beautiful, descriptive, graphic?

- Is it particularly meaningful? Is it a high point in the book?
- Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
- Does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
- Does the passage make you laugh or make you melancholy or make you something else?
- Does the author raise intriguing questions or issues?
- Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?
- What is the effect of this quote in relation to the book's overall purpose?
- You get the idea.

You are not limited to the above list, nor do I expect you to answer all of the above. However, your responses to the passages should clearly explain to me *WHY* these passages mean something to you, *WHY* these passages caught your attention, and *HOW* these passages propel the author's overall purpose of the novel. Also, be reasonably concise. Find a balance between quantity and quality in your writing.

Part C: Then, select *ANOTHER* passage as "The Quote of the Book." This should be that one passage that captures the essence – the true meaning – of the novel for you, the reader. In a well-written paragraph, explain exactly *HOW* this passage is the one perfect quote from the book. Think of this as the one passage that you would absolutely want saved should your book ever be lost or destroyed.