

Upper School Summer Reading 2018

Advanced Placement Language and Advanced Placement Literature

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How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster (revised edition with red cover published in 2014)

Assignment: Buy a composition notebook like the ones you used in Freshman English for journaling.

If you are new to EDS and unfamiliar with annotation, read sections 1-5 of [this guide to reading](#) from Harvard University. Then begin reading Foster's book. In keeping with the Harvard recommendations, ANNOTATE your text as you read. I'll be grading your margin notes for this book and on other works throughout the year. (Because the focus of this year will heavily rely on writing in books as part of being an active reader, e-books will not be allowed.)

Read the following chapters from Foster's book. For the ones that contain an assignment, write those answers in your composition notebook with each assignment clearly titled. (When I make suggestions about specific focus for the assignments, they are just that—suggestions for if you're stuck. You are not obligated to discuss that one specific example, though, unless otherwise noted in the question.) Each of these assignments should be about 2-3 pages in length (yes, written by hand, in ink), and remember if you quote Foster or another work to cite in MLA. You are, of course, accountable for all of the chapters listed (even if they don't contain a writing assignment), and they will all be fair game for quizzes, tests, discussions, projects, and writing assignments.

Introduction: How'd He Do That?

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

WRITE (ALL AP STUDENTS): List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to a novel or movie you know. Use the form Foster gives on pages 3-5.

Chapter 2: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

WRITE (ALL AP STUDENTS): Choose a meal from a literary work or movie and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.

Chapter 5: When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...

Chapter 6: ...Or the Bible

Chapter 7: Hansel and Gretel

Chapter 9: It's More than Just Rain or Snow

WRITE (ALL AP STUDENTS): Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work you have read or movie you have seen. For example, you may write about how you see the weather being significant to conveying the mood in a novel like *The Catcher in the Rye* or *Lord of the Flies*.

Chapter 11: More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence

WRITE (AP LIT STUDENTS ONLY): Consider a movie you've seen or book you've read where violence plays out. Write about the significance of that violence to the overall work as a whole and why the method of violence is significant to that story. (For instance, you could examine how violence escalates in *Lord of the Flies* from being weak and almost accidental to how it escalates into deeply personal, brutal, and sadistic. Similarly, you could look to the violence in a film like *Star Wars* and examine the nature and significance of the violence and why it matters to the point the director is trying to make.)

Chapter 12: Is that a Symbol?

Chapter 13: It's All Political

WRITE (AP LIT STUDENTS ONLY): This year we'll be looking at a lot of prose and poetry with political undertones. Write about a fiction work you've read (or a film you've seen--nonfiction documentaries do not apply here) that carries political undertones. Research the work's context--what was going on in the world at the time the author wrote that book/film script? What was the writer's personal outlook on those events? How can you see those events/attitudes play out in the work? You may want to consider elements like themes, characterization, conflicts, etc.

Chapter 14: Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

Chapter 15: Flights of Fancy

Chapter 18: If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

Chapter 19: Geography Matters

WRITE (ALL AP STUDENTS): Discuss at least four different aspects of a specific literary or film work that Foster would classify under "geography." What are those aspects, and why are they important to the work? (For example, you could look to different parts of the island in *Lord of the Flies* or different settings in *The Great Gatsby*.)

Chapter 20: So Does Season

Chapter 21: Marked for Greatness

WRITE (ALL AP STUDENTS): Consider a character with some kind of physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization (e.g. Harry Potter's scar; Piggy's fatness and vision problems in *Lord of the Flies*, etc.)

You will turn in your completed work on the first day of class, and each writing assignment will be graded for insight, analysis, effort, and mechanics. Each of the five writings (seven for AP Lit students) will be worth ten points. Additionally, your book annotations will be worth ten points.

If you have questions as you work this summer, please email me! In order to discourage procrastination on this assignment, I not will respond to questions about summer reading after Sunday, August 5th.