



First Academy-Leesburg
AP Literature and Composition
Pre-Requisite Summer Reading Assignment 2016
Heather B. Iseminger (hiseminger@faleesburg.com)

While working through summer reading, please feel free to email me with questions you may have. Know that I will be spending a great deal of time with my family this summer and will only check my email a few times a week. But have no fear—I will get back to you.☺

As you work on your summer reading, use fully expressed ideas to finish all of the following assignments. In other words, advanced placement classes are conducted at a collegiate level. Your ideas should not be expressed in sentence fragments or with unsupported assertions. **Assignment is due the first day of class.** Extended time will be given to those registering late.

Assignment #1 – DO THIS FIRST

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN: 0062301675 or any version you have.) And YES – always read the introduction!
 - a. As you read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* you will need to keep a reading journal identifying points in the book which stand out to you as significant statements.
 - i. Please follow the format below. Your journal **MUST BE TYPED**. You will one entry for each chapter.
 - ii. You will need an entry for each chapter.
 - iii. Your reaction should merit a collegiate response. Phrases or one-sentence responses will not be enough to meet those expectations.

Page #	Chapter	Significant Statement	Your Reaction—How will this help you better understand the literature you read?
xiv	Intro.	<i>Okay, let's say you're right and there is a set of conventions, a key to reading literature. How do I get so I can recognize these?</i> Same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice.	A person who has never run a lap around a track cannot expect to run a marathon without having trained for it. In the same way, we cannot expect to read literature like a professor without practice. The more we read, the better we understand the message the author is attempting to convey to the reader.

Assignment #2

1. Choose and read two books from the following list. They should be books you **HAVE NOT** read before. Then complete the assignments on the back of this handout.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> b. <i>The Awakening</i> c. <i>Frankenstein</i> d. <i>1984</i> e. <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> f. <i>Things Fall Apart</i> g. <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> h. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> i. <i>Great Expectations</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> j. <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> k. <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> l. <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> m. <i>Tess of the Dubervilles</i> n. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> o. <i>The Lord of the Flies</i> p. <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> OR <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> q. <i>Animal Farm</i>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3. **For one of the books**, use what you learned in Foster’s book to complete a reading journal similar to the one above.
 - a. This time, instead of “Your Reaction” in the fourth column, you will need to write: “How does this statement connect more deeply to nuances of the novel? How do you feel about what is taking place in this moment?” Same rules apply—collegiate responses!
 - b. You will need 20 total entries.
 - c. Pay special attention to symbols and imagery in your reading.
4. **For the second book**, respond to **ONE** of the following prompts from a practice AP Lit exam. Then write a well-organized TYPED essay connecting the answer to the meaning of the work (theme) as a whole. **Do not merely summarize the plot.** Consistently connect your points to the theme in the same way you would have connected to your argument in Lang.
 - a. **Prompt Choice #1:** A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman.
 - b. **Prompt Choice #2:** The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
 - c. **Prompt Choice #3:** One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel or a drama struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.
 - d. **Prompt Choice #4:** In many works of literature, a physical journey—the literal movement from one place to another—plays a central role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole.
 - e. **Prompt Choice #5:** Many works of literature contain a character who intentionally deceives others. The character’s dishonesty may be intended either to help or to hurt. Such a character, for example, may choose to mislead others for personal safety, to spare someone’s feelings, or to carry out a crime. Consider how a character deceives others in your novel. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character’s deception and discuss how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
 - f. **Prompt Choice #6:** In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that lie “is a search for justice.” Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then in a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.
 - g. **Prompt Choice #7:** It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character’s values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.
 - h. **Prompt Choice #8:** In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Select a novel, play, or epic poem in which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim.