

AP Literature and Composition Summer Project 2018-2019
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Project Overview

The AP Literature and Composition course is a rigorous, college-level course taught to allow you, our most advanced students, the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. The AP course work will consist primarily of reading and analyzing British, American, and world literature. In order to succeed at analysis, you must read deeply, often reviewing works several times for full understanding.

To help you in this endeavor, the first part of the summer project is to read and take notes on the extremely accessible and succinct *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. The purpose of this read is pretty self-explanatory, but it will introduce you to, or reinforce for you the foundations of approaching literature, which will make your practice of reading more enjoyable, and also more fruitful.

Second, you will apply your newfound literary skills to a careful and analytical reading of the famed bildungsroman, *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Dickens is a noted master at creating character and portraying the various class realities of Victorian London. This book contains "Life, death, love, hate, dashed hopes, revenge, bitterness, redemption, suffering, graveyards, fens, scary lawyers, criminals, crazy old women, cadaverous wedding cakes...Now, how can you not read it" (Foster 296)?

Lastly, in both your writing and discussion for this class, you will be expected to speak about literature using the appropriate collegiate vernacular. This will include an in-depth knowledge of literary and poetic terms and their applications. To this end you will be reviewing and working through a list of literary terms to see them in context and better understand and own the usage of them.

A brief note on using reading guides: Book guides, printed or online, such as those offered by Sparks Notes, Cliff Notes, Pink Monkey, Book Rags, etc. will not take the place of reading the pieces and cannot give you the flavor of the author's style, voice, diction, etc. While I have no problem with you using these as a starting point, far too often I have encountered students who fell into the trap of relying solely on these guides for analysis and interpretation, thus robbing themselves of the opportunity to struggle, analyze, think, and grow.

Above all AP Literature and Composition is about the appreciation of good literature. We will be spending the year digging into the literature that we read and looking at how the works shape us, change our perspectives, and speak into our lives. These novels are so rich and have so much to offer in the way of true-life experience and sheer entertainment value. **Enjoy these stories!** Good luck with your summer reading! I am truly looking forward to working with all of you in the fall!

The Assignment

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* By Thomas C Foster**

- **Publisher:** Harper Perennial; Revised edition (February 25, 2014)
- **ISBN-10:** 0062301675
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0062301673

For each chapter, including the interludes, you will identify the main point (usually hinted at by the chapter title) and take notes on how to look for/approach that idea as found in literature. Essentially, you will be making your own quick-check reading guide (how to read literature for dummies style). This can be either hand-written, or typed, but must be your own original work. Follow my example below for structure and format purposes.

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

Main Idea: Oftentimes authors will use the archetype of a trip or quest to further a character's growth and self-knowledge.

Every Quest has:

A Quester

A Place to go

A stated reason to go there

Challenges and trials

The "real" reason for the quest is found/understood

Sometimes a character just needs to get from point a to b to advance the plot, but when a "character hits the road, we should start to pay attention" (Foster 6).

***Great Expectations* By Charles Dickens**

- **Publisher:** Penguin Group USA (January 1, 2003)
- **ISBN-10:** 0141439564
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0141439563

The goal of a first read is to make meaning and understanding and **begin** to think about some of the deeper elements and facets of the book. We will do a much deeper, "second reading" of certain aspects of the book together as a class, so don't stress out about deeply and thoroughly getting it **all** on the first read. Complete the following as you read:

- 1) Book Notes: make notes in the margins of the books as you read – I want to see you reading *actively*
- 2) First Notes: complete the following notes:
 - Copy the title, author, original date of publication
 - Keep a list of the characters and their relationships to each other
 - After you read each chapter:
 - Give the chapter a title (write it in your book on the first page of that chapter and in your journal)
 - Summarize the chapter in a sentence or two in your journal. **Then note any literary devices that stand out, questions that come to your mind, your disagreements or agreements with the writer, and any reflections the book brings to your mind** (include page numbers for future reference).

Vocabulary

Another important aspect in understanding literature, and in joining in on the language of power, is to continue to develop your vocabulary both of literary terms, as well as general word knowledge. To this end you will be keeping a vocabulary journal throughout the year separated into **literary terms** and **general vocabulary**. You will begin this journal with **25 new words from *Great Expectations*** and **5 words from the literary terms** list found at <http://literary-devices.com/>.

For each of the words, you will write the word, definition and example of usage as seen in/from literature.

Discussion

Finally, the last part of the summer project will be to join our class on **schoolology**. If you do not already have a **schoolology** account, it is extremely easy to set up. Simply go to schoolology.com and follow the instructions to create a student account.

The class access code is **6MPXW-C6DDJ**.

Once you have joined the class you will see a discussion board on the home page. As you are reading through *Great Expectations*, join the online class discussion by commenting on a classmate's thread or beginning a new one based on what is standing out to you/what you are processing. You must post a minimum of twice throughout the summer. Have fun with your conversations, but also be sure to keep them collegial and meaningful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or remind if you have any questions at all. I will do my best to respond in a timely manner, if I'm not in the middle of nowhere hiking boulders, mountains and streams.

Remind: Enter this number:
81010
Text this message:
@729aah