

**Victoria ISD**  
**AP Literature and Composition**  
**Summer 2019 Reading Assignment**

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!

Victoria ISD requires AP students to complete summer reading in preparation for the upcoming academic year. This reading is mandatory; we ask that students obtain copies of the required books and encourage them to start reading early in the summer.

**Course Objective:** The Advanced Placement English course in Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and critical analyses of imaginative literature. This course includes intensive study of representative works of literary merit from various genres and periods. The purpose of the AP course is to prepare students for college work and AP exams that give students the opportunity to receive college credit. The course will be intellectually intense, demanding of your time, and rigorous in nature.

**Required Summer Reading:** You have two texts to read over the summer. Please have these read by **August 23, 2019**.

**Required texts:**

- Selected chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, Harper Perennial; Revised edition (February 24, 2014). ISBN-13: 978-0062301673 Please read these chapters prior to the novel.
- *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones, Dial Press Trade Paperback ISBN-13: 978-0385341073

**Summer Assignments:** The following assignments are to be completed by **August 23, 2019**.

- From *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, read the following nine chapters: 1, 10, 11-14, 18, 19, and the Envoi chapter. Answer the nine corresponding open-ended questions related to the required novel.
- Read *Mister Pip*. Mark the sections and or passages from text (underline or highlight) that support your responses to the questions for the specified chapters.

**School Year Assignments:** During the first weeks of school, students will write a timed essay over the required novel and complete a content-based test. The activities and lessons for the first unit of study are dependent upon completion of the summer reading assignments.

**Grading:** Grades for both the summer and school year assignments will be included in the first nine-week grading period. **The grade for assignments turned in after the due date will be reduced by eleven points for each day it is late.**

- Summative grades
  - Timed essay
  - Test based on content from *Mister Pip*
- Formative grades
  - Responses to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* application questions

**AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading**  
*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster  
as applied to *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones

Understanding literature no longer needs to be a mystery – Thomas Foster’s book will help transform you from a naïve, sometime- confused Watson to an insightful, literary Holmes. Professors and other informed readers see symbols, archetypes, and patterns because those things are there – if you have learned to look for them. As Foster says, you learn to recognize the literary conventions the “same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice.” (xiv).

**Directions:** While reading *Mister Pip*, note examples and/or evidence to support your responses to questions from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Mark the text that will support your responses. (Please note, that these notations will be necessary in order to complete your timed essay in which you will be required to include parenthetical citations. You must use evidence and example from *Mister Pip*, including page references. Your textual evidence may take the form of direct quotations, paraphrase, or summary of pieces of text. **You must cite all textual evidence using MLA format.** Consult the Purdue Owl reference for MLA citations for help. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**Please note that your responses should be paragraphs – not pages.**

Concerning mechanics, pay special attention to pronouns. Make antecedents clear. Say Foster first; not “he.” Remember to capitalize and punctuate titles properly.

1. **Chapter 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It’s Not):** List the five aspects of the QUEST and apply them to Matilda’s experience in *Mister Pip*.
2. **Chapter 10- Don’t Stand Next to the Hero** Identify a character in *Mister Pip* whose death is the result of being “too close to the hero.” Explain how the author, Lloyd Jones, structures the plot to include the death of that character.
3. **Chapter 11 – More Than It’s Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence:** Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in HTRLLAP and apply them to *Mister Pip*. Show how the effects are different.
4. **Chapter 12 – Is That a Symbol? :** Use the process described on page 106 and investigate the significance of one symbol in *Mister Pip*.
5. **Chapter 13 – It’s All Political:** Assume that Foster is right and “it is all political.” Use his criteria to show that *Mister Pip* is political.
6. **Chapter 14 – Yes She’s a Christ Figure Too:** Apply the criteria on page 119 to a major character in *Mister Pip*. Try to choose a character that will have many matches.
7. **Chapter 18 – If She Comes Up, It’s Baptism:** Think of a “baptism scene” from *Mister Pip*. How was the character different after the experience? Explain.
8. **Chapter 19 – Geography Matters:** Discuss at least two different aspects of *Mister Pip* that Foster would classify under “geography.”
9. **Envoi:** Choose a motif not discussed in Foster’s *How to Read Literature like a Professor* and note its appearance in *Mister Pip*. What does this idea seem to signify?

**DUE: August 23, 2019**

Grading for this assignment is based on the inclusion of the elements outlined below as well as the quality of your responses. Responses will be approximately 11 points apiece; three for each of the elements listed below and two points for depth of thought that reflect an understanding beyond the literal and use of sophisticated syntax and diction. Required elements for each response:

- Assertion – Answer the question, addressing it directly and thoroughly.
- Concrete detail- Cite specific evidence, including page number(s) that support your assertion.
- Commentary- Explain how the evidence connects to your assertion.

Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form

By signing below, I am agreeing that I have read and understand the 2019 Summer Reading assignment for AP English Literature and Composition (AP English IV) and I agree to abide by assignment requirements.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Information:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_