

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2023-2024

I understand that in enrolling in an AP course at Gettysburg Area High School, I am required to pay the fee of approximately \$96 per course. I also understand that I am required to take the Advanced Placement exam in the spring of 2024. If I do not take the exam, I will forfeit the added grade weight which accompanies the course, and I will not receive a refund of the exam fee.

I understand that if I do not complete the required reading list and hand in the written assignments by the assigned due date, I will receive a 50% grade penalty on the assignment. I understand that I will NOT be dropped from the course.

The English Department at Gettysburg Area High School encourages all families to make reading an important part of their summer. Aim to spend at least an hour a day reading. The very best preparation for future success in any field is to read. If reading is not part of your life, do not expect to be a successful student in this AP course.

Also, remember that AP courses are electives. If you do not wish to complete a summer assignment, please withdraw from the class now. If you cannot devote the time needed to be successful in this class next year, please drop it now. If you have an issue with school attendance, please know that it will become a problem in this class and in any AP class.

If you agree to the statements above, please return the bottom portion of this form to Mrs. Small in Room B214 by Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (your name, printed) have reviewed the requirements for the summer assignment for AP Literature and Composition for the 2023-24 school year. **I am aware that the assignment is due on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 22, 2023.** I am aware that I must print the assignment and deliver it to Mrs. Small in Room B214. If I am absent on the first day of school, I should send an electronic copy to Mrs. Small by the first day of school and then deliver a printed copy upon my return to school.

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(your signature)

## **AP English Literature and Composition 2023-24 Summer Assignment**

### **Due Tuesday, August 22, 2023 (The first day back to school in the fall)**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this summer assignment is

- to give you an immediate basis for discussion of literature, including elements such as theme, narrative, viewpoint, symbolism, and plot structure;
- to provide you with works you can write about on the AP exam next spring;
- and to enrich your mind.

#### **Checklist of AP Literature Summer Assignment Requirements**

- ☐ Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
- ☐ Complete 10 chapter summaries (2-3 main points) and analyze those points in relation to a book you have previously read.
- ☐ Read *Catcher in the Rye*, *Brave New World*, *Wuthering Heights*, or *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1 of the 4)
- ☐ Complete 5 more chapter summaries (2-3 main points) and analyze those points in relation to the novel you have chosen to read for this class.

If you are willing and able to purchase your own copies of the books, you can annotate as you read and will have the books to refer to later in the year. If not, you can find these works in the local library or online. Although video versions of books you choose to reference may exist and can be enjoyable, they differ greatly from the written word; it is better to rely on the works themselves.

If you have any questions about the assignments, please email me (csmall@gasd-pa.org) Please do not wait until the days just before the deadline to ask questions.

Grading: This will be your first grade for this course. It will be graded based upon your deeper insights on how literary/rhetorical devices, as well as excerpted evidence, add meaning to the text. Surface-level interpretations as well as those found on websites such as Sparknotes are not considered 'A' level work.

**You will be rewarded for your own original thoughts and ideas.**

\*\*\*Plagiarism: Any student found to have used another person's ideas or words including classmates (past or present) or online resources will receive a zero for the assignment.

This summer assignment will be due on the first day of class. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a grade penalty of 50%.

#### **Reading assignment:**

**Required Reading #1:** Text: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial; Revised edition

ISBN-13: 978-0062301673

**Choice Reading #2:** Choose one of the following novels to read:

1 – *Wuthering Heights*-Emily Bronte

2 – *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

3 – *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

4 – *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

\*\*\*Again, choose ONE of these FOUR books. You are only REQUIRED to read ONE!!\*\*\*

## Writing assignment:

#1. After reading the entire book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, choose **10** chapters to summarize with 2-3 main points per chapter. Analyze those points in relation to a work you have read in the past. I realize that you have not read an overwhelming selection of higher-level novels, but please try to choose works that you studied in high school or that are at least at a high school reading level. If you are wondering if your reading selection is appropriate, consult the College Board's list of AP quality authors. **YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE VARIETY**; use multiple sources for your examples.

#2. After summarizing and analyzing using **10 chapters**, choose another **5 chapters** to use in briefly analyzing how the main points apply to your chosen book (*Wuthering Heights*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Brave New World*, or *Catcher in the Rye*)

### Here is a sample for Chapter 1: Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

#### Main Ideas:

- There is usually a quester, a place to go, and a stated reason to go there.
- The quester usually encounters numerous challenges and trials that help him/her on the journey.
- The ultimate reason for the quest is to gain self-knowledge and understanding.

#### Connection:

In *The Kite Runner*, Amir's quest is to return to this past to set right the wrong he did as a young child. His reason for returning to Afghanistan is to rescue Hassan's son Sohrab, who has been sold as a child prostitute to Amir and Hassan's childhood enemy. Amir faces many challenges, including restrictions imposed by the Taliban, and the physical and mental challenge of confronting Assef. Ultimately, having completed his journey, Amir gains valuable knowledge about himself and his relationship to his own past as well as the possibilities of the future.

\*Note: The sample provided incorporates the theme of Foster's chapter (the quester, quest etc.), provides a specific reference to the text, and connects the purpose of the quest as it is incorporated in the book. This is the connection that I am looking for you to recognize. Find this, avoid plot summary, and you are good to go.

If you prefer a more directed approach to your analysis, you are welcome to use the prompts for each chapter found attached to the end of this document.

## **Suggested Writing Prompts for How to Read Literature Like a Professor**

### **Introduction: How'd He Do That?**

How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature? Discuss a time when your appreciation of a literary work was enhanced by understanding symbols or patterns.

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

List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed) in the form used on pages 3-5.

### **Chapter 2 -- Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion**

Choose a meal from a literary work and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.

### **Chapter 3: --Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires**

What are the essentials of the Vampire story? Apply this to a literary work you have read or viewed.

### **Chapter 4 --Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?**

Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading specific works

### **Chapter 5 -- When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...**

Discuss a work that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on the theme.

### **Chapter 6 -- ...Or the Bible**

Read "Araby" (Short Story by James Joyce - Find it online). Discuss biblical allusions. Look at the example of "two great jars". Look for connections.

### **Chapter 7 -- Hansel and Gretel**

Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?

### **Chapter 8 -- It's Greek to Me**

Write a free verse poem derived or inspired by characters or situations from Greek mythology. Be prepared to share your poem with the class. Note that there are extensive links to classical mythology on my Classics page.

### **Chapter 9 -- It's More Than Just Rain or Snow**

Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work, not in terms of plot.

### **Chapter 11 --...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence**

Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.

### **Chapter 13 -- It's All Political**

Assume that Foster is right and "it is all political." Use his criteria to show that one of the major works you have read is political.

### **Chapter 14 -- Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too**

Apply the criteria to a major character in a significant literary work. Try to choose a character that will have many matches.

### **Chapter 15 -- Flights of Fancy**

Select a literary work in which flight signifies escape or freedom. Explain in detail.

Chapter 16 -- It's All About Sex... and Chapter 17 -- ...Except the Sex

OK ...the sex chapters. The key idea from this chapter is that "scenes in which sex is coded rather than explicit can work at multiple levels and sometimes be more intense than literal depictions" (149). In other words, sex is often suggested with much more art and effort than it is described, and, if the author is doing his job, it reflects and creates theme or character. Choose a novel or movie in which sex is suggested, but not described, and discuss how the relationship is suggested and how this implication affects the theme or develops characterization.

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

Think of a "baptism scene" from a significant literary work. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss.

Chapter 19 -- Geography Matters...

Discuss at least four different aspects of a specific literary work that Foster would classify under "geography."

Chapter 20 -- ...So Does Season

Find a poem that mentions a specific season. Then discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way. (Submit a copy of the poem with your analysis.)

Interlude -- One Story

Write your own definition for archetype. Then identify an archetypal story and apply it to a literary work with which you are familiar.

Chapter 21 -- Marked for Greatness

Figure out Harry Potter's scar. If you aren't familiar with Harry Potter, select another character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 22 -- He's Blind for a Reason, You Know, Chapter 23 -- It's Never Just Heart Disease..., Recall two characters who died of a disease in a literary work. Consider how these deaths reflect the "principles governing the use of disease in literature" (222-224). Discuss the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism.

Chapter 24 -- Don't Read with Your Eyes

After reading Chapter 24, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the twenty-first century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.

Chapter 26 -- Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Select an ironic literary work and explain the multivocal nature of the irony in the work.

Chapter 27 -- A Test Case

Read "The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield, the short story starting on page 262. Complete the exercise on pages 282-283, following the directions exactly. Then compare your writing with the three examples. How did you do? What does the essay that follows comparing Laura with Persephone add to your appreciation of Mansfield's story?