

AP Literature Summer Work

Overview

Incoming AP Literature students are required to read several books over the summer in preparation for the course and subsequent AP exam. One portion of the AP exam, the Free Response essay, demands that students have a wide range of challenging literary works on which they can draw when writing that essay.

The goal of this summer's reading, however, is not to prepare you for the exam but to initiate you into the conversation about ideas through books by both contemporary and classic authors.

AP Literature is college; it is not a preparation for college. If you are looking for ways around this reading assignment, you should not enroll in this class.

Students who do not complete the summer reading can still take the course, but will have a harder time on the essay portions of the test, as well as many of the assignments throughout the course.

Requirements

Each student must do the following:

- Read and annotate *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte. (See annotation guide).
- Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This is a non-fiction book that is a **key** text in this course.
- Visit a library over the summer and spend an hour or so reading through a children's bible and children's Greek myth book. The point of this is for you to get a basis for some of the stories our authors will be alluding to in their works throughout the course. Keep a short section of notes on the stories you read and what they were about.
- Write an in-class essay on *Wuthering Heights* in which you use the ideas from Foster's book as a guide to analyze the literature you read.

Extra Credit

- Read and annotate *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hess and keep Cornell notes for each chapter.

Or

- Read and annotate *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and keep Cornell notes for each chapter.

Any one of the above extra credit assignments will be worth three full practice AP essays to be used in either the first or second semester of the course.

**English - AP IV Literature and Composition
Course Contract**

Return this contract to Mr. Harnden (room R-1) **by June 1st.**

Directions: Read and **initial** the following statements, then fill out the bottom portion.

1. I understand that if I do not complete the required summer assignments, I will not be prepared to succeed in this course. If I do not complete the assignment I might not be able to earn an A in the first quarter.

2. I understand that this course is intended to challenge me and prepare me for the AP Literature test. I further understand that the course is a college course on a high school campus.

3. I understand that I will be asked to come up with original ideas and analysis, to read, understand, and analyze literature that is written at the college level, and to write with superior control of the English language. I understand that if I am behind my grade level in reading or writing skills, this is not the course for me.

4. I will use the internet, Spark, Cliff, or any other note product only **after** I read the original source material for myself.

5. If I can, I will purchase all books for the class so that I can take notes in them and keep them for future reference. If I cannot purchase them, I will find copies available at local libraries or the school's library.

6. I understand that I will need to spend an average 3-5 hours a week on homework in order to be successful in this course.

7. I understand that this course will include reading, analyzing, and writing about core novels and outside novels, writing papers including a research paper, and doing assignments to prepare for the AP test.

8. I agree to sign up for and take the AP Literature test at the end of the year if I feel prepared for the test.

9. I will not whine or complain about the work load of this class, because I am entering into this course of my own choice and free will, and I am prepared to do the work it requires.

Students: I agree to abide by the class rules, the guidelines set forth in this document, and all directions of the teacher. I hereby commit to the requirements of this course.

Student signature: _____ Student's name (printed) _____
Date: _____

Parents: I have read this paper and understand the commitment that my child has made to this course. I think he/she can handle these responsibilities. I will do my best to help him/her uphold the commitment.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

How to Annotate Literature

annotate: *Verb* [-tating, -tated] to add critical or explanatory notes to a written work [Latin *nota* mark]

Decide on Your Method

- **Write in the margins** if you own the book.
- If you don't own the book, **sticky notes** are good and can also easily be removed.
- Finally, you can **write on a separate sheet of paper**. Be sure to note the page number and passage you are referring to.

Passive vs. Active Annotations

- **Passive Annotations** do not involve much thought or comprehension. Avoid excessive underlining and highlighting.
- **Active Annotations** are written connections, questions, and observations. They require readers to think and express their ideas,

SIFTT Annotating

S – Symbols: A symbol is a literal thing that also stands for something else, like a flag, or a cross, or fire. Symbols help to discover new layers of meaning.

I – Imagery: Imagery includes words that appeal to one or more of the five senses. Close attention to imagery is important in understanding an author's message and attitude toward a subject.

F – Figurative Language: Figurative language includes things like similes, metaphors, and personification. Figurative language often reveals deeper layers of meaning.

T – Tone: Tone is the overall mood of a piece of literature. Tone can carry as much meaning to the story as the plot does.

T – Theme: In literature, a theme is a broad idea in a story, or a message or lesson conveyed by a work. This message is usually about life, society or human nature. Themes explore timeless and universal ideas. Most themes are implied rather than explicitly stated.

Types of Annotation

- Questions and Answers
- Summary of Main Ideas
- Character Descriptions
- Possible Test Questions
- Patterns / Motifs
- Personal Connections to Text
- Explanations of Text
- Marking Important Passages