

AP Literature Preparation Assignment 2023-2024

Overview

Incoming AP Literature students are required to read 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.

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. Previous students have found it difficult to be prepared for the course when the summer reading is not completed.

!!Requirements!!

Each student **must** complete both of the following: (If access is an issue, PLEASE email s.ruiz@bonita.k12.ca.us so she can send you the PDFs)

- Read and annotate one of the books on the subsequent list. (If using the annotation guide, you may use up to 2 chapters per page).
- Read and annotate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This is a nonfiction book that is one of the **key** textbooks in this course.

List of book options:

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

There, There by Tommy Orange

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

This assignment will be due the second Thursday of school: August 31st, 2023

Also suggested, though not required

If you have time this summer for another shorter book, please consider reading *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor* as well. It is very helpful in analyzing poetry, especially for those who are nervous about analyzing poetry this year. It is not required, but we will be using some of the techniques during the class this year.

Please see the following pages for book summaries, & annotation instructions/expectations.

A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

A story set against the volatile events in Afghanistan—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

***Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman**

A story about a failed bank robbery that turns an apartment viewing into a hostage situation and the subsequent investigation into it. The victims are argumentative and difficult, the bank robber is distraught and the realtor is incompetent. But when a gunshot goes off and the police find an apartment covered in blood, things get serious. It's a darkly comedic, yet also lighthearted story about a group of impossible people that are all stuck together, about empathy and battles we are all fighting, about people's struggles and hopes and dreams, and about a missing bank robber that the police can't seem to track down.

Beloved* by Toni Morrison

The work examines the destructive legacy of slavery as it chronicles the life of a Black woman named Sethe, from her pre-Civil War days as a slave in Kentucky to her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873. Although Sethe lives there as a free woman, she is held prisoner by memories of the trauma of her life as a slave.

***Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia**

Set in 1950s Mexico, *Mexican Gothic* is the story of Noemí, a young woman who gets summoned to a small mountain mining town to check up on her ailing cousin, who has recently been married off to a handsome and mysterious Englishman. What happens next is pretty typical of Gothic literature: girl arrives at creepy isolated mansion, girl realizes the vibes are way off, girl devises a plan to GTFO.

***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

Published in 1899, the novel depicts a young mother's struggle to achieve sexual and personal emancipation in the oppressive environment of the postbellum American South. When it was first published, it was widely condemned for its portrayal of sexuality and marital infidelity. Today it is considered a landmark work of early feminist fiction.

***The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway**

Follows a group of young American and British expatriates as they wander through Europe in the mid-1920s. They are all members of the cynical and disillusioned Lost Generation, who came of age during World War I (1914–18).

There, There* by Tommy Orange

A relentlessly paced multigenerational Native American story about violence and recovery, memory and identity, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people. It tells the story of twelve characters, each of whom have private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow.

Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Part bildungsroman and part crime drama, centered around Kya, “the Marsh girl.” She grows up in a shack out in the marshes bordering a small village on the coast of North Carolina. Her mother and her four older siblings all leave to get away from their abusive father, leaving her behind to fend for herself. Eventually, her father disappears as well. The book follows the ups and downs of her life.

***May contain sensitive content.**

Annotation Instructions

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, or the organizer provided. One page can be used for NO more than two chapters.

So what is annotating....?

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

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

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.

Annotation Guide

Text: _____ Chapter(s): _____

Summary:

Notes:

Questions:

Sample Novel Annotations:

