

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
Summer Reading List and Assignment
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Students in AP Literature and Composition read a *lot*. If reading isn't a habit of yours, you might consider a different senior English course, or you might want to develop this habit now. Your summer assignment will be added to all the assignments of your first nine weeks grade. Part of the work will be done during the summer and part will be done during the first few weeks of school.

- A. Three required texts
- B. Response to an essay that I Email to you
- C. Emails to me done during the summer

A. Required Texts:

1. **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by Thomas Foster**
2. **The History of Love by Nicole Krauss ******
3. **We Were the Mulvaneys by Joyce Carol Oates**
*** **This is the first book we will deal with in**
September, 2009

** We will deal with this book all year.

Cliff Notes is available for most major works, but this is not a reliable source of information about or interpretation of the work. The writers of **Notes** are often college students doing a part-time job, and they make significant mistakes. My test (which are actual AP tests) and the AP test in May of 2010 require in depth reading of the novel. The intelligent approach, obviously, is to read the primary source (the work itself) and to attempt analysis and interpretation for oneself. Study guides such as Cliffs are appropriate for review only or occasionally for clarification. **Tests and essays are based on primary texts.**

Students in AP Literature and Composition need to be prepared to be challenged and sometimes even disturbed by what they read. The texts I have chosen are adult literature and are typical of those found in the college courses which the AP program approximates. The school does not supply these texts; rather, they must be purchased by the student (new or used) or obtained from the public library. I recommend purchasing them, as they may be needed for an extended period of time, and I encourage you to write notes throughout the pages of the text. Furthermore you will need these works for class during the first few weeks of school so it would be nice to have your own copy. On the first or second day of school, students should be prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of these texts by writing either an essay or answering short questions or quote based questions. These will count a **Test grade (your exams on books)**.

Once you have these titles, you will need to carefully read through and annotate (if purchased your text) noting key quotations, important moments, and literary details. As you read, I would like you to annotate the text (see slowreads.com/Resources/HowToMarkABook_Outline.htm: this is an internet source for you to print out on your own.). First look for things that you like or that puzzle you, disturb you or resonate with you. Mark them. Ask questions in the margin; underline things that interest you; look up words you do not know and write the definitions in the margin. Read your novel with a highlighter in hand, and jot notes and questions in the margins. Use post-its if necessary but create a running response log where you share some of your emotional, critical responses to the book. Please don't forget to enjoy the book.

Emails that count as grades:

You will have a minimum of two emails for me to receive a 100 Quiz grade. The first email should talk about you: your likes, dislikes, fears, hopes, ambitions, study habits, work ethic, goals, and grades. This email could be used as part of your college essay. Then I will email you an essay question when you tell me that you have finished either the Oates or Krauss novel. This essay will be a sample of a past AP essay- this will give you a feel for what you shall encounter during the school year. The rest of the emails will pertain to the mandatory books by Oates and Krauss. I will collect your notes on both books the first week of school. Your notes should ask questions or make comments or interpretations concerning the following: setting, characters (main ones please), symbols, author's style of writing, theme, conflicts, or plot. **Your notes will count as a test grade and your AP essay will count as a Quiz grade.** I will have a folder at school with your emails in there because we will be using them the first weeks of school. I will respond to your emails and discuss the books with you. If all goes well, I will have my web page up and also wikispace set up for a class discussion; we will use this internet format for communication a great deal next year.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor assignment:

Read this book before you read the two mandatory books. This is an excellent book about the major stories that authors use to create their "new story". This book by Foster has 26 chapters that discuss major ideas that have been used for centuries by authors. We will be referring to this book all year long so I encourage you to buy a new one or try and find a former AP student and purchase the book from that student.

Suggestions:

I also suggest that if you are not familiar with **THE BIBLE** that you might want to read the following stories: Genesis, Matthew, Job, and Ruth. You might want to look for the following stories: The Prodigal Son, John the Baptist's Head on a Platter, Jephthah, Gethsemane, Cain and Abel, King Solomon, Camel/Eye of the Needle, Special Providence/Fall of a Sparrow, Judas/Silver Coins, or Adam and Eve/ The Garden of Eden. You may look for these topics on line or you could read a children's **illustrated Bible or the Bible for Dummies**.

Literary Terms:

We will be dealing with them for poetry, prose, drama, and fiction. If you are not familiar with the following, I suggest you look them up on line and also try and find them in your summer readings. The terms are as follows:

Allegory, Diction, syntax, mood, setting, allusion, tone, metaphor, point of view, antagonist, characterization, foreshadowing, protagonist, personification, denotation, narrator, irony, connotation, symbol, imagery, analogy, stereotype, hyperbole, flashback, and imagery. These terms would also be appropriate for email discussions.

Also since you will be applying to colleges, I suggest that you start to gather as much of the following as you can before school starts: recommendation letters (as many as possible), resume, college applications, look at early action versus early decision, your GPA, look at your past portfolios for narratives that can be used for college essays, look at books about college essays, and register for your SAT'S if you are not happy with your past scores. Plan to visit the colleges that you might be interested in and try to narrow your choices to no more than five schools. We will be writing a college essay the first nine weeks of school.

This is a College English class, and you are expected to have homework every night. You will receive a calendar of dates for assignments on a month to month basis that will include dates for papers, quizzes, and tests or out of class projects. I strongly suggest that you find a study partner to work with to go over main themes of novels, characters, setting, plot structure or use this person(s) as a sounding board for ideas/thoughts about the novels, poems, plays or short stories studied. You are expected to take the AP exam in May of 2010, and I want to have a deposit of \$20.00 no later than the end of the first nine weeks.

I look forward to our meeting in September 2009, and I know that each one of you will be a valuable contributor to making our class a success. I will have for you a class expectation handout, a handout for the project concerning the book

that you will read, and assignments for the first book we cover as a class. I wish you a good summer of fun, work, and study. See you soon.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Kubu

Mrs. Nancy E. Kubu