

2019 AP Lit **Summer Reading**

Required Books:

(1) *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

(2) AND your choice of ONE of the following: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini; *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley; *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding; *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

You will be required to read TWO works this summer, and I highly recommend that you purchase your own copy of each of these texts (both available online or at local booksellers) – it is useful to be able to take notes in your own copy of the book.

AP Lit is considered a college class. Thus, this course will provide you with the intellectual challenges and workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English literature course, beginning with your summer reading assignment. The texts that you are assigned to read this summer are typically read at the college level, so they will be advanced in content as well as reading level and may include controversial content.

Assignments:

- I. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This text is an easy-to-read introduction to the patterns of symbolic meaning in literary texts and is a helpful secondary source for AP English. I suggest reading it before you read your novel of choice, as it may help to make some parts of the novel more meaningful to you. You will annotate in BOTH books.
- II. Create a journal or chart in which you have two columns: one for your notes after reading and annotating Foster's book in which you identify the main points of each chapter, and a second for where you apply what you read in Foster's book to your chosen novel or book of poetry. If a chapter from *How To Read Literature Like A Professor* does not apply to your novel/book of poetry, apply it to something else you have read in the past. Be mindful that your future AP Lit teacher has read the books and knows what applies and what does not. If you cannot find a connection or neglect to connect the two books, you will lose points on your overall grade. This assignment is a test grade and the first test grade of the quarter. 1. As you read the novel, annotate your copy (see some annotation tips below) and keep in mind what you've read in *How to Read Literature like a Professor*. Pay attention to how you can apply what you've read from Foster's book to heighten your understanding and enrich your reading of the novel. While the number of annotations may vary amongst students and chapters, your annotations should reflect high level of engagement with the text. These annotations will facilitate your understanding, essay writing, and class discussions. Avoid listing or just "pointing out" information – you should analyze and look for the larger meaning created via the use of literary techniques (why or how is it important to the overall understanding or meaning of the novel?) Highlighting or underlining in your text is not annotating. Annotating not only requires "pointing out" something BUT ALSO explaining why you pointed it out, which may be revealed through annotation in the margin of your text or on a sticky note attached to the page.
- III. In-class test on Foster's book *How To Read Literature Like A Professor*. This test will be given during the first week of school. The AP Lit class will also engage in whole class discussion about Foster's book and student participation will be a grade

