

AP Lit. & Comp. Summer Assignment 2020-21/Mr. Byrd

Introduction: AP English Literature and Composition is a course to enhance your ability to explore, comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate complex literary texts. Students will practice discussing literature of varied themes, historical contexts, and genres whether it be in an on-demand, timed writing prompt, an in-depth, scrutinized, and revised essay, or in class discussion. We write an essay every couple weeks (analytical, argumentative, and expository forms) and will read every day. Students must be willing to challenge and justify their understandings, attempt to see other perspectives, and discuss in a mature and lively manner. First rule: READ.

Assignment One: Personal Profile and Reading History

Due: Friday, June 5th, 2020 (or earlier)

Email me an introduction to yourself. This should be typed and attached in an email to byrdm@ndapandas.org (not in the body of it). You should demonstrate your knowledge of MLA formatting of typed assignments (That means, include a header, page number, assignment title, and correct font and spacing). This introduction may include accounts of your history, interests, passions, and reasons for taking this AP level course. At the end of your introduction, please provide a list of the titles of novels, plays, short stories, and poets you have studied since middle school. Include, also, the titles of any texts you've read for personal pleasure (especially, but not only, those that you believe could be useful to you for your AP literary work).

Assignment Two: Book One

Due: Tuesday, June 30th, 2020 (or earlier)

Read and annotate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster, pub. 2014 edition. Buy a new copy. Write your name in the cover. Annotate each of the chapters from this book, capturing the lesson that Foster wants readers to take from that chapter. On the due date above, **email** me sample pictures of your annotations (for two chapters, one from the beginning, one from the end). *You will turn in your annotated copy of this book the first week of class.

Assignment Three: Book Two

Due: Friday, July 31st, 2020 (or earlier) Harry Potter's Birthday!

Read Charlotte Bronte's novel, *Jane Eyre*. Do the following:

- Annotate the novel using the thematic and literary concepts learned in *How to Read...* Generic highlighting and underlying do not count as annotations.
- Choose a key passage from the novel (after you've read the novel) and then write a two-three page essay in which you do the following for that passage:
 - Formulate a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
 - Select and use evidence to support a line of reasoning.

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- Explain how the evidence supports a line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating an argument.
- Email your essay on the due date listed above. This is a graded assignment, so do not email it late. Make your plans so as to meet the deadline. *Students involved in GSP or other summer programs just need to tell me if an extension is needed.
- Keep in mind, the first unit of the year will involve *Jane Eyre*; failure to demonstrate a knowledge of the novel's specifics will affect one's grade. Bring your annotated copy of the novel to class on day one.

Assignment Four: Common Reader

Due: First day of class

All students are expected to read the common reader book. AP students, however, are expected to read, understand, and be able to lead discussions on the novel.

Other Recommendations:

Literary Devices: Be sure to know how to define and apply the following terms:

Figurative Language: Hyperbole, Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Synecdoche, Metonymy, Symbolism, Pathetic Fallacy

Sources: Allusion, Reference

Repetition: Anaphora, Epistrophe, Chiasmus

Rhetoric: Logos, Pathos, Ethos, Rhetorical Questions, Absolute Language, Antithesis

Apostrophe

Irony, Humor, Paradox, Oxymoron, Satire, Zeugma

Catalog, Polysyndeton, Asyndeton

Theme, Motif

The Bible: Anglophone literary tradition has been influenced by both the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament--mostly through the King James Bible. Knowledge of the Bible, therefore, is essential for understanding allusions to biblical stories and principles. There are also several Bible based movies or series you could choose to watch to familiarize yourself with famous stories.

Roman and Greek Mythology: Like the Bible, the myths of Ancient Greece and Roman permeate Anglophone literature. Knowing the basic roles of the various deities, and the legends of the heroes and villains, will further your understanding of allusions to them. If you're unfamiliar with *The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*, The Oedipus trilogy, I recommend reading, listening, or watching them.