

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2017

I'm very excited to be working with each of you this fall. Keep in mind that the work actually begins this summer and takes the form of reading the following two books as well as fulfilling a written assignment due the first day of class.

- ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines***

Thomas C. Foster

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface—a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character—and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

This is a must read companion for AP Composition and Literature! I strongly suggest starting this early in the summer and NOT trying to read it in a weekend. The purpose of this is to make you a more critical reader and arm you with the relevant concepts necessary for preparing for the AP exam in May. Purchasing rather than borrowing a copy of this text is a must in order to annotate as needed. I have attached questions to help guide you through this text.

- **The Awakening**

Kate Chopin

Made popular in the 1960's by a "second wave feminist movement", some 60 years after it was first published in 1899, is the shocking story about a New Orleans's woman living in Victorian society who awakens to her wants and needs that her stifling marriage can't provide.

Although this storyline would be considered rated G by today's standards, it is a novel gem loaded with many obvious literary devices that lends itself to the purpose of what must be accomplished this year in AP Composition and Literature. I suggest taking notes on each chapter paying close attention to key events, developing motifs and literary devices that you come across as you read.

Writing Assignment Due Day 1:

An adaption of the 2005 AP Free Response Prompt:

After exploring *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you should be a more astute reader. Now is your opportunity to show what you have learned by incorporating at least two of the major concepts discussed in the book into a well-developed essay about *The Awakening* and how the protagonist Edna Pontellier conforms to society while questioning her place in it.

The paper should be:

1. 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced, with proper heading and proper MLA formatting
2. Well-developed introduction leading into a tight thesis
3. Supporting details from both texts to support the thesis
be sure to fully explain how these relate to topic
- include properly formatted textual citations (no more than 15% of paper)
- make it seamless from your ideas to the text
5. Written in a logical order, free of spelling, punctuation and mechanical errors, 3rd person only
- don't forget clinchers so paragraphs flow seamlessly

For proper formatting, be sure to use:



<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

Feel free to email me during the summer with any questions or concerns at
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