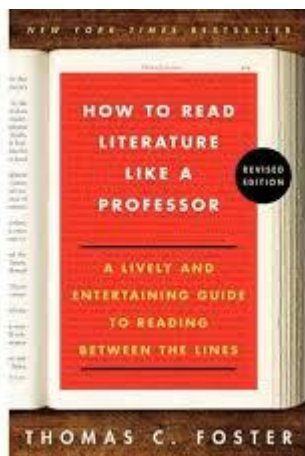


A.P. English Summer Reading Assignment

Reading Challenge #1



Please read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (ISBN 9780062301673). This is a book to help us understand literature better. There is no assignment for this text except to read. In fact, you may want to make this your first read before tackling your other reads this summer. It will help you see deeper into your reading this summer!

This is a helpful resource to own, but if that is not an option, here is a PDF of the book for your perusal:
https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/sites/stamfordps/files/uploads/how_to_read_literature_like_a_professor.pdf

Reading Challenge #2

Step A:

Select and read a novel from the approved reading list. (See the end of this document) These are AP level novels that have “literary merit”.

Dos and Don'ts when selecting

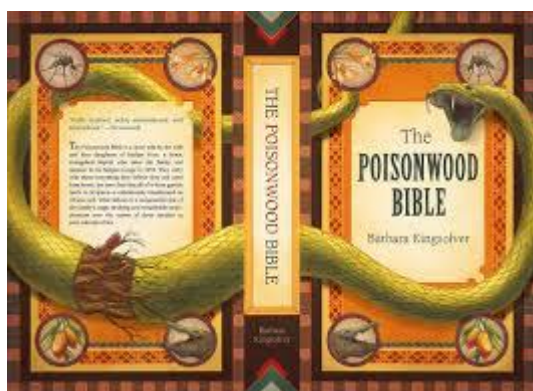
- **Do not select** something you have already read. That includes a novel that you read (or were supposed to read) for any class. Also, **do not select** a novel that you read on your own. (We are going on the honor system here, but I may check with your previous teacher.) This also includes novels that you really, really, really liked and think you will get more out of a second time.
- **Do not** use an abridged addition; read the original in its entirety.
- For novels that have been translated, you may decide with which translator to go. (However, for *Anna Karenina* Pevear and Volokhonsky are suggested as the translators.) Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like any advice.



Step B: Once you have read the novel, **create a Reading Record Card** which is due the second day of class.

- ◆ For instructions only, see page four of this packet.
- ◆ The purpose of this activity is so you can quickly review important aspects of the novel when preparing for the A.P. test in April. Therefore, accuracy and quality is important.

Reading Challenge #3



Read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (ISBN: 9780060786502). You may order a new or used copy online (consider www.abe.com OR www.bn.com and typical sources such as eBay and Amazon). Lastly, you may check one out from the library ([WBPTL](#)) or read an eBook using a number of online sources such as Hoopla, Open Library, etc. Just email me if you are having trouble finding a book. I would be happy to help you!

During the first week of school, you will write a closed-book impromptu on the essay. (This is prior to class discussion on the work.)

NOTE: Previous A.P. English students strongly recommend that you start Reading Challenge #3 approximately three weeks before school starts, that you read it twice, and that you annotate it the second time through. I also recommend watching the movie *Apocalypse Now* after having read *Poisonwood Bible*.

Optional Activity

If possible, you should watch the movie *Apocalypse Now* (1979)—it is an Oscar winning, multi awarded adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel *The Heart of Darkness* which we will be reading. This movie will introduce you to themes, styles, and literary techniques that we will explore. There will **not** be a test on this, but I will reference it in class discussions.

Final Words

Reading Challenge #2 is your chance to read something you have always wanted to read or heard about; a novel that is been recommended or enjoyed by someone whose opinion you respect; a worthwhile piece of literature to add to your personal library of fiction you have actually finished. Please feel free to email me at dawn.mulcahy@wbsd.org. I would love to discuss novels with you!! Have fun browsing novels but choose wisely. (And for the record, the shortest selection is not necessarily the best choice).

You will want to complete Reading Challenge #3 near the end of the summer so it is fresh in your mind when we return to school.

In short, do the following:

Assignment #1

- ✓ Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

Assignment #2

- ✓ Read a book from the approved list.
- ✓ Make a Reading Record Card for that book.

Assignment #3

- ✓ Read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver.
- ✓ Suggested: Read it twice and annotate it.
- ✓ Optional: Watch *Apocalypse Now*

Enjoy your summer (with books!!). I am beyond excited to spend time exploring literature with you this year. Thank you for entrusting this special year into my care. I look forward to spending your senior year together.

Should you have any questions or need something you feel need a faster reply than an email may receive, I have already set up your Remind account. Just text @ffak6b to 81010. This will enroll you and your message will pop up on my phone. Have a great summer. I can't wait to hear all about it!

Mrs. Mulcahy

READING RECORD CARDS

One way to review for a test or impromptu on a novel or play which you have just finished is to complete a “reading record card”. Basically, it is all important notes reduced to a 4” x 6” note card. (In addition, please save these cards so you’ll have them later as a means of review for the cumulative test and for the A.P. exam which is on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 8 am.)

Here’s what your card must include:

- Title, original publication year (or when first performed), type of work
- Author, birth and death year, significant background info (i.e. **only if** it relates to reading)
- Setting: when and where (as **specific** as possible—e.g. not 1900s, France)
- Plot synopsis (4-6 sentences **at most**)
- Major characters (with brief descriptions of who but emphasis on **characteristics**)
- Conflict (**only one**): main type (character vs...?) identified and briefly explained
- Major themes (2-3) identified and briefly explained (**No** clichés or didactic messages)
- Other important aspects (varies depending on selection): significance of title, structure, symbols/concepts, allusions, foreshadowing, distinguishing characteristics, imagery/motif, irony, historical significance, etc.
- 2-3 significant quotes by main characters (w/page or act/scene/line)
- Your personal (and insightful) response to the content and style of the work (**Not** did you like it. Think, what does it have to offer—or what does it fail to offer—beyond plot.)
- Your name on top right corner

Do’s and Don’ts

- You may not use more than one card for each work. (both sides acceptable)
- You may type the info then paste or fully tape the print-out to a card. **No staples!**
- No card will be accepted unless it is the proper **size** and on **sturdy** card stock.
- You may abbreviate, but use standard abbreviations so you remember what they mean.
- Information gained from outside sources must be cited (or you will be guilty of plagiarism).
- Put the information in the order given above and as follows on the evaluation sheet.
- Label **clearly** using (for example) a chart, highlighting, various font type or size, etc.

Approved Reading List

Notes about the selections

- Novels that have been recommended by previous AP students and respected WB English teachers are preceded with an asterisk *. The recommendation is based on various factors such as interest, significance, and merit. It does not mean necessarily that *you* will like it—it's just a way to give you a start in your selection process.
- Be sure to remember the Do's and Don'ts in selecting a novel.
- If there is a novel you want to read but don't see, please come ask or email. I want you to love what you pick!!!

Novels

*100 Years of Solitude, by Marquez
 *1984, by Orwell (No, if you are taking Point of View this year)
 Absalom, Absalom!, by Faulkner
 The Adventures of Augie March, by Bellow
 After This, by McDermott
 The Age of Innocence, by Wharton
 Agnes Grey, by Bronte
 Alias Grace, by Atwood
 *All the King's Men, by Warren
 All Souls, by Schutt
 All the Pretty Horses, by McCarthy
 Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, by Chabon
 American Pastoral, by Roth
 An American Tragedy, by Dreiser
 Amsterdam, by McEwan
 *Anna Karenina, by Tolstoy
 As I Lay Dying, by Faulkner
 Babbitt, by Lewis
 The Beautiful and Damned, by Fitzgerald
 *Bel Canto, by Patchett
 *Beloved, by Morrison
 *Black Boy, by Wright
 Bleak House, by Dickens
 Bless Me Ultima, by Anaya
 *The Blind Assassin, by Atwood
 The Bonesetter's Daughter, by Tan
 *Brave New World, by Huxley (No, if you are taking Point of View this year)
 Brick Lane, by Ali
 Brideshead Revisited, by Waugh
 Bridge of Sighs, by Russo
 *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, by Diaz
 Catch 22, by Heller
 Ceremony, by Silko
 Clear Light of Day, by Desai
 Cloudsplitter, by Banks
 Cold Mountain, by Frazier
 The Color Purple, by Walker
 *A Confederacy of Dunces, by Toole
 The Corrections, by Franzen
 *The Count of Monte Cristo, by Dumas
 *Crime and Punishment, by Dostoevsky
 Cry, the Beloved Country, by Paton
 David Copperfield, by Dickens

Dead Souls, by Gogol
 Death in Venice, by Mann
 The Deerslayer, by Cooper
 Doctor Zhivago, by Pasternak
 Don Quixote, by Cervantes
 *Dracula, by Stoker
 *Drop City, by Boyle
 *East of Eden, by Steinbeck
 The Echo Maker, by Powers
 Emma, by Austen
 Empire Falls, by Russo
 The English Patient, by Ondaatje
 Ethan Frome, by Wharton
 Europe Central, by Vollmann
 Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, by Foer
 The Falls, by Oates
 Far from the Madding Crowd, by Hardy
 A Farewell to Arms, by Hemingway
 Fathers and Sons, by Turgenev
 Fieldwork, by Berlinski
 Fifth Business, by Davies
 The Fixer, by Malamud
 For Whom the Bell Tolls, by Hemingway
 Frankenstein, by Shelley (No, if you are taking AP Language this year)
 The Gathering, by Enright
 Germinal, by Zola
 A Gesture Life, by Chang-rae Lee
 Gilead, by Robinson
 The God of Small Things, by Roy
 The Good Earth, by Buck
 The Good Soldier, by Ford
 *The Grapes of Wrath, by Steinbeck
 The Gravedigger's Daughter, by Oates
 Great Expectations, by Dickens
 Great Fire, by Hazzard
 Gulliver's Travels, by Swift
 A Handful of Dust, by Waugh
 Hard Times, by Dickens
 The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, by McCullers
 The Heart of the Matter, by Greene
 Henderson and the Rain King, by Bellow
 The Hours, by Cunningham
 House Made of Dawn, by Momaday
 The House of Mirth, by Wharton

The House of Seven Gables, by Hawthorne
The House on Mango Street, by Cisneros
Howards End, by Forster
**The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, by Hugo
The Idiot, by Dostoevsky
In Country, by Mason
In the Country of Men, by Matar
**In the Lake of the Woods*, by O'Brien
In the Time of Butterflies, by Alvarez
Inferno, by Dante
The Inheritance of Loss, by Desai
Intruder in the Dust, by Faulkner
Invisible Man, by Ellison
Ivanhoe, by Scott
**Jane Eyre*, by Bronte
Jude the Obscure, by Hardy
The Jungle, by Sinclair
The Known World, by Jones
Lady Chatterley's Lover, by Lawrence
The Last of the Mohicans, by Cooper
The Lazarus Project, by Hemon
Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Dangerous Liaisons), by Laclos
Les Misérables, by Hugo
**Life of Pi*, by Martel
Light in August, by Faulkner
**Lolita*, by Nabokov
Look at Me, by Egan
Love Medicine, by Erdrich
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
Mansfield Park, by Austen
March, by Brooks
The March, by Doctorow
**The Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Erdrich
The Mayor of Casterbridge, by Hardy
Middle Passage, by Johnson
Middlemarch, by Eliot
**Middlesex*, by Eugenides
Moby-Dick, by Melville
Moll Flanders, by Defoe
Moonstone, by Collins
Mrs. Dalloway, by Woolf
My Ántonia, by Cather
Nana, by Zola
Native Son, by Wright
Native Speaker, by Chang-rae Lee
Never Let Me Go, by Ishiguro
Nicholas Nickleby, by Dickens
Northanger Abbey, by Austen
O Pioneers!, by Cather
Obasan, by Kogawa
A Passage to India, by Forster
People of the Book, by Brooks
Père Goriot, by Balzac
Persuasion, by Austen
Plague of Doves, by Erdrich
The Plot against America, by Roth
The Power and the Glory, by Greene
**A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by Irving
Ragtime, by Doctorow
The Remains of the Day, by Ishiguro
Reservation Blues, by Alexie

The Return of the Native, by Hardy
**The Road*, by McCarthy
Robber Bride, by Atwood
A Room with a View, by Forster
Saint Maybe, by Tyler
**The Scarlet Letter*, by Hawthorne
The Sea, by Banville
Sense and Sensibility, by Austen
Shadow Country, by Matthiessen
The Shipping News, by Proulx
Silas Marner, by Eliot
Sister Carrie, by Dreiser
Snow, by Pamuk
Song of Solomon, by Morrison
Song Yet Sung, by McBride
Sons and Lovers, by Lawrence
Sophie's Choice, by Styron
The Sound and the Fury, by Faulkner
The Stone Diaries, by Shields
**The Sun Also Rises*, by Hemingway
The Sweet Hereafter, by Banks
**A Tale of Two Cities*, by Dickens
Talk Talk, by Boyle
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, by Hardy
**Them*, by Oates
Then We Came to the End, by Ferris
This Side of Paradise, by Fitzgerald
A Thousand Acres, by Smiley
Three Junes, by Glass
The Three Musketeers, by Dumas
To the Lighthouse, by Woolf
Tom Jones, by Fielding
The Tortilla Curtain, by Boyle
Tree of Smoke, by Johnson
Typical American, by Gish
Underworld, by DeLillo
Vanity Fair, by Thackeray
Vernon God Little, by Pierre
Waiting, by Ha Jin
War and Peace, by Tolstoy
War Trash, by Ha Jin
The Wapshot Chronicle, by Cheever
The Way of All Flesh, by Butler
The Way We Live Now, by Trollope
We Were the Mulvaney's, by Oates
**White Noise*, by DeLillo
**The White Tiger*, by Adiga
Wide Sargasso Sea, by Rhys
The Wings of the Dove, by James
The Woman in White, by Collins
**Wuthering Heights*, by Bronte
Year of Wonders, by Brooks
**The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, by Chabon
The Zero, by Walter

A big thank you to Mr. Palizzi who organized all of this information and collected research from all of his students over the years to provide us the wisdom from their efforts!