

AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment 2019

In order to both frame the year and to be sure that we have some common background knowledge from which to analytically discuss the literature we read throughout the upcoming year, the following pieces are your summer assignment for the course.

1. Read and complete the assignment (see pg.2) for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition* by Thomas C. Foster.
*This can be signed out from Mrs. Bodnar, purchased new or used from a number of online merchants, or is available online as a PDF.
Note: I have found it through Amazon and eBay for as little as \$1.00 + shipping.
2. If you have not, read *The Great Gatsby* in order to use it at the basis for examples for your notes/journal.

DUE DATE:

The notes described following this disclaimer will be collected on the first day of school.

Assignments should not be left to the last minute! Although this is not a lengthy assignment, it does require in-depth reading of the novel, careful analysis and thoughtful responses. Do not attempt to begin the assignment the day before school begins and be able to give both texts the consideration necessary.

The ASSIGNMENT:

How to Read Literature like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster (2014, Revised Edition)

Outline/Notes Assignment

Introduction: This is a reference book, not a novel. It is filled with information that will help you throughout your year in AP English AND BEYOND! The insights you read in this book will help you ANALYZE the literature you read. It will also help you analyze movies, history, and life in general. Thus, taking good notes will benefit you both during and after reading this book. As you read each chapter, keep notes in the same format as shown below, using one new page for each chapter. We will refer back to these notes and add to them as the academic year progresses.

Directions: The titles of every chapter should be given at the top of each page of notes. Under “Explanation” write notes about how/what this chapter is teaching you about how to analyze literature. For “Example,” write down the major works referenced by Foster for each section AND an example from *The Great Gatsby* with what part of the chapter specifically applies to this analysis. IF nothing within the chapter applies to *Gatsby*, then a book or movie outside of the examples given in the text with which you are familiar may be used.

The first chapter is done for you—read it to see how the notes match up.

You must (neatly) HANDWRITE these notes/outline.

Chapter 1: Every Trip is a Quest (Except When it's Not)

Explanation: (Notes)

Many stories follow the Quest mode/archetype

Parts of a Quest (the archetype—how you know if the story is a Quest):

The Quest consists of five things

- 1. a quester (i.e. the person on the quest)*
- 2. a destination*
- 3. a stated purpose*
- 4. challenges that must be faced during on the path to the destination*
- 5. a reason for the quester to go to the destination (cannot be wholly metaphorical) (Foster 3)*

The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge (Foster 3)

Always and never when used here and in literature are rarely actually the case

Sometimes the plot requires a trip; it is only a journey if there is an adventure and growth

Example:

Foster - The Crying of Lot 49

The Great Gatsby - Nick's journey to West Egg for the summer.

- 1. Nick Carraway*
- 2. West Egg*
- 3. To work in the bond business*
- 4. Navigating the societies of the classic wealthy and the nouveau riche*
- 5. To get away from “home” - to see another part of the world and attempt to become the man he can be in adulthood*

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! – Although there will be obvious overlap since the reading assignments are the same, do not copy or Google the information. Yes, I do check, and you do not want to start the year that way or have this be your first impression.