

Summer Reading 2018 AP Literature and Composition

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Course Overview:

AP English Literature and Composition is intended to be a college level course. The course provides students with the intellectual challenges and workload of an undergraduate level university course in English. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May 2017. The course is designed to adhere to the AP Literature and Composition curricular requirements as put forth by the College Board.

The goals of the course include carefully and critically reading literary texts of merit. These are texts that have not only withstood the test of time, but convey a myriad of meanings through structure, style, and themes, as well as figurative language, diction, syntax, imagery, symbolism, and tone. To this end, we will read texts from various genres (fiction, poetry, and drama) from the sixteenth through the twenty-first century. Although we will read many texts from both the British and American traditions, the goals are to know a few texts very well. Throughout the year we will also consider the social and historical contexts of the works we are critically engaging. To truly understand a work like *1984*, a reader must have some idea of the historical context, including World War II and Stalinist Russia.

Besides carefully reading, critically writing is the other major goal of the course. Students will write focusing on the critical analysis of literature. Modes of writing will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. These assignments will include both formal and informal writing, as well as creative pieces.

The course is divided into units of study. Although the placement of novels and dramas is dictated by the availability of books in our bookroom and performances outside of school, the poetry attempts to follow a chronological order beginning with the English Renaissance. In this way, it is hoped that students can begin to see how literature from different periods is often inspired and, at times, a reaction to the literature that preceded it.

Summer Reading List:

The goal of the AP summer reading is to both begin the course before we have formally met and, hopefully, provide students with some thought provoking and enjoyable summer reads. Students are required to read:

- *1984* by George Orwell (novel)
- *Master Harold ...and the Boys* by Athol Fugard (play)
- *How to Read Literature a Like Professor* (Revised Edition) by Thomas C. Foster (non-fiction)

Summer Reading Assignments:

Assignment 1: Explore the AP Central website to gather information about the AP Literature Exam (http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2002.html). Students should be familiar with the organization of the exam and the scoring rubric. In addition, students should also find and read sample essays from each of the scoring categories.

Assignment 2: During the first week of school, students will complete a written assessment on the book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (Revised Edition) by Thomas C. Foster.

Assignment 3: Within the first two weeks of school, students will complete written assignments to assess *1984* and *Master Harold and...the Boys*.