

AP English 12 Summer Reading Assignment 2019
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Students in an AP English Literature and Composition course should read actively, carefully and deliberately. In order to practice AP exam skills in preparation for the AP Literature and Composition course, all students must complete the following assignments this summer. AP English 11 and 12 students must turn in both assignments via email no later than 8 am on the first day of school.

*Please follow MLA formatting for all papers and remember that plagiarism of any level will result in a zero for a major grade and ISS.

Reading Assignment #1-

Text: How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster.

ISBN: 978-0062301673

Assignment: Please respond to each of the following prompts in a typed paragraph. Be sure to answer each question completely.

Chapter 1: Consider the five aspects of a QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed). Use the list on p.4-5 to structure your response.

Chapter 2: Choose a meal scene from a literary work (or film) and apply the ideas that were discussed in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3: Explain what Foster means when he says, “ghosts and vampires are never only about ghosts and vampires.”

Chapter 5: Discuss a work that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 7: Think of a work of literature that reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Explain how the work creates irony or deepens appreciation.

Chapter 8: Write a free verse poem derived or inspired by characters or situations from Greek mythology. Be prepared to share your poem with the class.

Chapter 9: Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work, not in terms of plot. Discuss the role that the weather plays in the story.

Chapter 11: Present examples of two kinds of violence found in literature. Show how the effects are different.

Chapter 13: Assume that Foster is right and “it is all political.” Use his criteria to show that one of the major works assigned to you in the last three years is political.

Chapter 14: Apply the criteria on page 126 to a major character in a significant literary work. Try to choose a character that will have many matches. This is a particularly apt tool for analyzing film—for example, *Star Wars*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Excalibur*, *Malcolm X*, *Braveheart*, *Spartacus*, *Gladiator*, and *Ben Hur*. Explain how each of the traits applies to the character that you have chosen.

Chapter 18: Think of a “baptism scene” from a significant literary work. How was the character different after the experience? Explain.

Chapter 19: Discuss at least two different aspects of a specific literary work that Foster would classify under “geography.”

Chapter 20: Find a poem that mentions a specific season. Then, discuss how the poet uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way.

Chapter 21: Select a character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 22: Find a story, book, show or film that features a blind character. Based on your example, do you find Foster's statements true or false? Explain.

Chapter 23: Read "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. Some of you may have read this before, but read it again (it's short). Keeping in mind what Foster says in this chapter, what is the narrator really saying about Mrs. Mallard? Explain what happened to Mrs. Mallard.

Chapter 24: Recall two characters who died of a disease in a literary work. Consider how these deaths reflect the "principles governing the use of disease in literature" (215-217). Discuss the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism.

Chapter 25: After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play or epic written before the twentieth century. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the twenty-first century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.

Chapter 26: Select an ironic literary work and explain it.

Chapter 27 -- A Test Case

Read "The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield, the short story provided in the book. After reading chapter 27, explain what the story signifies and also how it is accomplished.

Reading Assignment #2-

Text: Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

ISBN: 978-1514713846

Assignment: The complex narration is a distinctive quality of Heart of Darkness. Write an essay explaining how this narrative strategy reflects the theme(s) of the novella.

Example of essay structure:

- Themes:
 - Imperialism / Colonization
 - Civilization vs. Savagery
 - Racism
 - Conflict and Moral/Ethical Implications
 - Absurdity of evil
 - The journey may be more important than the goal
- Symbolism:
 - Light
 - Color
 - Departure of ships
 - Words of art/painting
- Women
- The River
- Ivory
- Heads on poles around Kurtz's tent
- Rivets
- Character notes and descriptions
- Balanced phrases and parallel structure
- Elements of the Frame Story
- Setting
- Significance of the opening scene
- Significance of the closing/ending

AP English 11 Summer Reading Assignment 2019
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Reading Assignment #1

Text: The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
ISBN: 9780679732761

Assignment: Once you have read The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison, write a well-constructed five paragraph essay answering the following prompt. (500 words)

Prompt: One of the concepts in the novel is how an individual discovers his or her identity. Invisible Man claims that his “problem was that I always tried to go in everyone’s way but my own. I have also been called one thing and then another while no one really wished to hear what I called myself. So after years of trying to adopt the opinions of others I finally rebelled. I am an invisible man (Ellison 6).” By choosing to become “invisible,” does he fulfill his agenda of determining his own identity or is his invisibility yet another form and identity thrust upon him by others/society? Does IM base his identity and reality on self- reflection or is his self-perception constructed by how others see or do not see him? In what ways does Invisible Man mirror your own experience?

Reading Assignment #2

Text: The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
ISBN: 978-0811214049

Assignment: Once you have read The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams, write well-constructed five paragraph essay answering one of the following prompts. (500 words)

1. Analyze the structure and language in The Glass Menagerie. Think about the use of stage directions, the use of poetic language, the use of monologues, diction, syntax, etc.
2. Compare and contrast the absence of a father figure in The Glass Menagerie and how that absence shapes characters, like their personality and the choices they make in each text, as well as how it affects the overall play. With this topic you can also discuss the theme of how children pay for the sins of the father.
3. Choose two minor characters, from The Glass Menagerie, to compare and contrast. Think about their role, what they teach the main character, and what they reveal about the main character through their presence/influence in the play.