

AP ENGLISH 12 Summer Reading 2020

I am beyond excited that you are a SENIOR in my AP English class! These books are great and I am thrilled for you to read them! 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 exam, all students must complete the following assignments this summer. AP English 12 students must turn in both assignments via email no later than 8 am on the first day of school (you can always send your assignments before the due date). See you in August!

-Mrs. Luis

Email: rluis@maconeast.net

BOOK #1: Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
ISBN: 0062301675



ASSIGNMENT: Please respond to each of the following prompts in a typed paragraph (Formatting can be in list form- EX: Chapter 1: paragraph). Be sure to answer each question completely. Try to keep each question around or less than 5 sentences.

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.

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.

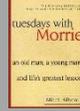
Chapter 24: Recall two characters that died of a disease in a literary work. Consider how these deaths reflect the “principles governing the use of disease in literature” (215-217). Discuss the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism.

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 with detail.

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.



BOOK #2: Read *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom

ISBN: 076790592X

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

1. Examine the person of Mitch Albom. Address the intellectual/philosophical/spiritual aspects of Albom, not his physical appearance. What traits does he have that are getting in the way of - or contributing to - his success? How does he change over the course of the book?
2. Examine the person of Morrie Schwartz. Address the intellectual/philosophical/spiritual aspects of Morrie, not just his physical appearance. What traits does he have that are getting in the way of - or contributing to - his success? How does he change over the course of the book?
3. During the course of the book, Morrie and Mitch talk about major life issues: the world, feeling sorry for yourself, regrets, death, family, emotion, aging, money, love, marriage, culture, forgiveness, and the perfect day. From one of these discussions, select a quote that seems important, is particularly elegant, or just strikes you as interesting. Comment in detail on an issue in the novel, noting specific words or ideas that were impactful and why.
4. Finally, comment on your reaction to the story itself. In what way(s) can you relate to Mitch and/or Morrie? How can you relate to some of the topics they discuss?