

**Wando High School**  
**2023 Summer Reading Novel Assignment**  
**Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

Welcome to AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION! These required summer reading and writing assignments will provide opportunities for you to read deliberately, closely, and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, absorb its meaning, and analyze how that meaning is expressed in literary form. **It is essential for students to complete the novel and writing assignments as these assignments will be an important part of our focus during the first weeks of Quarter 1.**

**Reading Assignment One:** Read **five** selected chapters in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. You may purchase a copy of this book or use the online PDF.

**Read the following five chapters:**

1. Chapter 1 - Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)
2. Chapter 9 - (Or 10 in older editions) - It's More Than Just Rain or Snow
3. Chapter 12 - Is That a Symbol?
4. Chapter 18 - If She Comes Up, It's Baptism
5. Chapter 20 - ...So Does Season

**There are several editions to this book, so you will have to locate the correct chapter to read by looking for the title of the chapter, not the chapter number.**

**Reading Assignment Two:** Read **one** of the following novels. Please select a novel that you have not previously read or studied. Read the novel like a college professor.

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* - Oscar Wilde
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* – Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini
- *The Awakening* - Kate Chopin
- *The Secret Life of Bees* - Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Water is Wide* - Pat Conroy
- *The Women of Brewster Place* – Gloria Naylor

**Writing Assignment One:** The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with the type of literary analysis students can expect throughout the course. The selected chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* will introduce students to many of the literary elements that students will use as the foundation for future writing assignments. After reading the books, this writing assignment will take approximately 2-4 hours to develop ideas, find text evidence, and compose and revise the responses. This assignment is a **Major** assignment (60% weight) and is due **August 25th 2023**.

- Choose **three** of the following short writing assignments:

**1. Chapter 1 - Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)**

List and explain the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to your novel in the form used on pages 3-5. Explain the five aspects of a quest as seen in the novel that you read. Give textual support in your answers. Use MLA format.

**2. Chapter 9 (Or 10 in older editions) - It's More Than Just Rain or Snow**

Discuss the importance of weather in your novel. How does the weather impact the novel as a whole? Explain. Give examples. Give textual support in your answers. Use MLA format.

**3. Chapter 12- Is That a Symbol?**

Discuss one major symbol in your novel. How does this symbol impact the novel as a whole? Explain. Give textual support in your answers. Use MLA format.

**4. Chapter 18 - If She Comes Up, It's Baptism**

Think of a "baptism scene" from your novel. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss. Give textual support in your answers. There must be water or some form of liquid for a "baptism". Use MLA format.

**5. Chapter 20 - ...So Does Season**

Find a scene from your novel that mentions a specific season. Discuss how the author uses the season in a meaningful, traditional, or unusual way. Give textual support in your answers. Use MLA format.

**Format and Additional Information for Writing Assignment One:**

- Please note your responses should be paragraphs – not pages! As you compose each written response, rephrase the prompt as part of your answer. Be certain to use specific examples and details in your responses.
- Include textual evidence (direct passages) from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and the choice novel to support your general statements. Be sure you are properly introducing all quoted material – remember that a quote is NOT a standalone sentence! Use parenthetical citations for ALL text evidence cited, in proper MLA format!
- Again, use MLA FORMAT for parenthetical citations with page numbers. If you have formatting questions, please consult the [Purdue OWL](#). Please double space and use Times New Roman 12 point font. Only typed papers will be accepted.

**After reading these *five* chapters and reading your novel, you might say to yourself, “My novel does not have a quest, does not have weather, contains no symbols, does not include a baptism, and does not describe any seasons.”**

- You may find that not all five of these chapters relate to your novel, but three out of the five will relate to your novel so that you can complete the assignment fully. These novels were hand-selected to go with these chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.
- Ultimately, if your novel does not connect to three out of the five assigned chapters, select other chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to read. **Your task is to write about three chapters and how they relate to the novel you selected to read and analyze.**

### **Writing Assignment Two: In-Class Essay**

During the first few weeks of school, students will write a timed “In-Class Essay” focused on the choice novel selected for Reading Assignment Two. The purpose of this assignment is to assess understanding of the work and to introduce the type of writing expected in AP Literature and Composition. Students will be given a past prompt from the AP Literature Exam to evaluate their literary analysis and composition skills. This assessment will count as a **Minor** assignment (30%) for first quarter AP LIT.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rzyski via email at [benjamin\\_rzyski@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:benjamin_rzyski@charleston.k12.sc.us). Thank you and I look forward to the start of the school year!