

Required Summer Reading for AP Literature 2021-2022

Seffner Christian Academy



Salutations! Below are **three** works and assignments you need to have completed by the first day of school. You need to complete these assignments in the order listed.

1) Non Fiction: *How to Read Literature Like a College Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

The Assignment:

1. Read each chapter
2. Summarize the most important idea from each chapter in one sentence
3. Name one story, movie, or tv series you thought about while you were reading this chapter.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Chapters 16 and 17 discuss topics that are not relevant to our focus for AP Literature. Please skip those two chapters in your reading and annotations, and do not refer to them in your later analysis of the two fictional texts.

2) Drama: *A Street Car Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

The Assignment:

1. Read the play (yes, the whole thing).
2. As you read, create annotations (that's a fancy way of saying notes about a particular part of the work) using the ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a College Professor* (Chapters 2, 3, 12 and 25 should be especially helpful).
3. Using your annotations as evidence, write a response about the theme of the play. You should use MLA as your format.

3) Fiction: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

The Assignment:

1. Read the novel (yes, the whole thing).
2. As you read, create annotations (that's a fancy way of saying notes about a particular part of the work) using the ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a College Professor* (Chapters 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 18, and 24 should be especially helpful).
3. Using your annotations as evidence, write a response about the theme of the novel. You

should use MLA as your format.

Anticipated Questions

Is the response the same as an essay?

Essentially, yes. Your thoughts should be organized into paragraphs, which should each be focused on defending one idea. The biggest difference between an essay and a response is the tone—responses tend to be informal, which means you are allowed to write in the first person and use contractions.

How long should my responses be?

Somewhere between four to six paragraphs. It depends on what you were able to discern while reading. Longer is not necessarily better, but you are trying to convince me that you read the works and thought about them deeply.

Am I supposed to find examples from the works for every chapter listed in the parenthesis?

No, those are listed as a way to help you focus. Choose 2 or 3 ideas that you can find and write your responses based on those.

Can I reference chapters from How to Read Literature Like a College Professor even if they are not listed in parenthesis?

Yes, but don't get carried away. Remember, your response should only be 4-6 paragraphs long.

Are you going to look at things like spelling and grammar?

Seriously? Yes, why are you even asking me that right now?

What happens if my response is wrong?

Nothing. Focus on making connections using your experiences as a reader and *How to Read Literature Like a College Professor* to make meaningful interpretations.

Can I use spark notes (or something like it)?

Please don't. The point of this exercise is to help develop your analytical skills. Using outside resources limits your ability to think for yourself. Also, as a general rule, I distrust sources which do not have a named author. If that work were any good, someone would be taking credit for it.

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