

## AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION *SUMMER ASSIGNMENT - 2023*

*AP English Literature and Composition Students,*

***Welcome to AP Literature and Composition SY 2023-2024 !! Your hard work and dedication in AP Language and Composition have earned you this opportunity to further establish yourselves as **critical thinkers, proficient writers, eloquent speakers and ardent listeners** who endeavor to appreciate a wide genre of literary work.***

*Since this is a college-level course, the workload is challenging and expectations are high; consequently, your time management skills are crucial to your success. In addition, your fortitude and dedication will be beneficial, rewarding and gratifying as you master the AP Literature and Composition content. Also, please note that some texts may include mature language and reading content so a certain level of maturity is expected from AP Literature students.*

*The summer assignment for AP Literature and Composition is designed to prepare you for the college-level reading and writing demands of this course. The purpose of this summer assignment is to help maintain your appreciation for reading, strengthen latent vocabulary skills, sharpen your writing skills and prepare you for this class in **August, 2023** and the **AP Literature Exam in Spring (Early May) of 2024**.*

***I strongly recommend that you begin your summer reading assignments early in the summer so that you will not experience the stress of rushing through to finish at the last minute. Therefore, you will be able to enjoy it rather than be scrambling to meet the deadline at the beginning of the new school term!***

AP students do not learn in a vacuum: AP students are ***independent thinkers and avid learners, they question what they read, they self assess while politely critiquing the work of others and they present their ideas to their peers with confidence and conviction.***

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the summer reading assignment: please email me at [smartin@allsaintsvi.org](mailto:smartin@allsaintsvi.org) Each assigned task may be composed on Google docs (where necessary).

*Thank you and have a great summer!*

Regards,  
S.J. Martin

## 12th Grade AP English Literature & Composition:

Reader's Choice for ALL 12th Grade AP Lit Students:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* By Thomas C. Foster

### **SECTION A. (ASSIGNED TASK)- REFLECTION ON QUOTES FROM HTRLLAP :**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the assigned tasks (Both A and B) on the text mentioned above.

**A. Download, Read and Annotate :** Chapters 1, 10 , 12 , 21 and 25.

**B. Using quotations from (HTRLLAP) as well as your own commentary, answer each of the following questions with reference to the NOVEL which you selected to read:**

**Please NOTE :** This should be a well-written discussion (i.e. : detailed—sometimes multiple paragraphs) of the message Foster is expressing in HTRLLAP **AND** the message the author is expressing in his or her novel.

(i) Every trip is a Quest (Ch. 1): " The real reason for a quest is always self knowledge." (Foster 7)- In the novel/play, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain (in detail) how he/she gains self-knowledge. **Cite from the text as you explain your answer.**

(ii) It's More Than Just Rain or Snow (Ch.10): " It's never just rain" (Foster 44)

Choose a scene where weather OR the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance. Cite from the text and be detailed.

(iii) Is that a symbol? (Ch 12): " Some symbols do have a relatively limited range of meanings, but in general a symbol can't be reduced to standing for only one thing. If they can, it's not symbolism, it's allegory." (Foster 56)

Identify a symbol in the novel/play. How does the writer present this image or object? How significant is this symbol to the plot and setting of the novel/play? **Cite and support from the text.**

(iv) Marked for Greatness (Ch. 21): "How many stories do you know in which the hero is different from everyone else in some way?..." (Foster 102).

Who is the hero/heroine of the novel/play? Describe the aspects of his or her character that make him/her stand out? Is there a visible, physical or behavioral difference between the hero and other characters? Be detailed and cite textual evidence to support your response.

(v) Don't read with your Eyes (Ch.25) "...take your words as they were intended to be taken..."(Foster 119)

- a. Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work (novel/play read) and explain its significance based on your interpretation of the text.
- b. What did you glean from this reading experience? Be detailed with your response.

**Reader's Choice for 12th Grade AP Lit Students** (Choose one you have read before or one that is new to you).

**SECTION B: (ASSIGNED TASK)- Summer Choice Novels:** Each novel may be found at the local library, bought on Amazon or downloaded online on an electronic device.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** SELECT **ONE** novel from the list below to read. As you read, practice the skill of annotation.

<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> - <b>Delia Owens</b>	<i>Native Son</i> - <b>Richard Wright</b>
<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> - <b>Alan Paton</b>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> - <b>F. Scott Fitzgerald</b>
<i>The Kite Runner</i> - <b>Khaled Hosseini</b>	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> - <b>Gabriel Garcia Marquez</b>
<i>Great Expectations</i> - <b>Charles Dickens</b>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> - <b>Toni Morrison</b>
<i>Underground Railroad</i> - <b>Colton Whitehead</b>	<i>Emma</i> - <b>Jane Austen</b>
<i>Frankenstein</i> - <b>Mary Shelley</b>	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> - <b>Lorraine Hansberry</b>
<i>The Awakening</i> - <b>Kate Chopin</b>	<i>The Dragon Can't Dance</i> - <b>Earl Lovelace</b>
<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> - <b>Tennessee Williams</b>	<i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i> - <b>James Baldwin</b>
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> - <b>Margaret Atwood</b>	<i>The Hate U Give</i> - <b>Angie Thomas</b>

**SECTION C: (ASSIGNED TASK): COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY PROMPT CHOICES - (2023-2024):**

**INSTRUCTIONS: In preparation for the college essays that you will be writing, choose ONE of the following prompts below.**

- Essay length is 400 words minimum- 650 words maximum**
- It will be in this format: 12 font, Double spaced, Times New Roman**
- Don't forget to have a heading: Name/ Course/ Date/ Title (Top Left Hand Side of paper). Also, include in the margin, the number of the question which you selected.**

**(2023-2024)- COLLEGE ESSAY PROMPTS:**

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

**Please Note:** You will need to do a considerable amount of introspection to complete these essays. This is meant to be personal and should reveal your *intellect, curiosity, desire and personal character*. This is an application in which you **SHOULD NOT TELL** a story; rather, you should **SHOW** who you are through your personal experiences. You **MUST SHOW** what you have learned about yourself as an individual... focus on your positive traits and talents.

**Useful Hints for Responding to the College Application Essay Prompts**

*A great application essay will present a vivid personal and compelling view of you to your teacher and/or a college admission board.*

1. *Narrow your topic and keep your focus on one great idea.* Admissions officers read hundreds of essays each day, and they have many submissions on the *same topics*.

***Try to make yours unique!***

2. *Avoid writing about the 4 "D's": death, divorce, drugs, and depression.* Don't think that you must have had a tragedy or trauma in your life to have a good essay topic. You can write about common happenings for example: *riding a bicycle or failing a test, involvement in a competition* ; ***the magic comes in how you approach the topic.***

3. Make sure the '***real you***' comes out in your essay. ***VOICE*** is the most important: your personal voice must be communicated through your writing style.

4. After you have finished, ask yourself if anyone else could have written the essay. If the answer is "yes," it is not personal and individual enough for an admissions essay.

5. Avoid using passive verbs like "is/was" or "are/were," and replace them with *active verbs that show action and emotion.*

6. *You obviously must write in first person about one of your favorite subjects: YOURSELF!* Although you should write in first person, avoid overusing personal pronouns like "I" and "my," etc.

7. Although the structure is truly up to you, do make sure your reader can follow with a clear *beginning, middle, and end.*