The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. It is designed to help students develop and refine their close reading and critical analysis skills of imaginative literature, and to demonstrate mastery of those skills through a variety of writing assignments. In order to maximize instructional time on the aforementioned skills, students should come to the class the first day of school prepared for the rigors of the course. The Summer Reading Assignment has been crafted to meet that objective.

**PART ONE: How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster**

In Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Red-Headed League," Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson both observe Jabez Wilson carefully, yet their differing interpretations of the same details reveal the difference between a "Good Reader" and a "Bad Reader." Watson can only describe what he sees; Holmes has the knowledge to interpret what he sees, to draw conclusions, and to solve the mystery.

Understanding literature need no longer be a mystery -- Thomas Foster's book will help transform you from a naive, sometimes confused Watson to an insightful, literary Holmes. Professors and other informed readers see symbols, archetypes, and patterns because those things are there -- if you have learned to look for them. As Foster says, you learn to recognize the literary conventions the "same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice." (xiv).

**Task:** In response to any 10 of the 27 chapters, write a paragraph addressing each of the 3 questions below. Be sure to include the title of the chapter in your response, and at least one quote from the chapter. All quotes must be documented using MLA style.

1. What is the overall lesson Foster wants readers to take from this chapter?
2. What are three specific tips you gleaned from the chapter?
3. Connect Foster’s lesson in this chapter with your personal experience with literature. Be specific in referencing at least one particular work of literature you have read to make your connection with this chapter. Using first person here is acceptable.

**PART TWO: Independent Reading Journal**

Independent reading increases reading achievement and offers important foundational tools which will help you to succeed in this course. In addition to giving your brain an added workout, having read and studied any one of the texts listed will be a huge help to you on question #3 of the Lit exam. What to read? You should definitely choose something that interests you. However, “interests” does not mean that the task will be fun in the usual sense. In fact, it may be, should be challenging. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, known by his stage name Molière, once said, “The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it”. Doing well and succeeding at something difficult has its rewards.

**Task:** Choose one novel or play from the attached list of titles, and follow the reading journal guidelines outlined below.

**Reading Journal Guidelines**

Your journals can be typed (how nice) or handwritten (neatly, in blue or black ink). Please turn in something that screams how proud you are of the work. Each journal has three distinct parts as shown below.

**A. Introductory Information**

(record all this information in order)

• Title of work and author

• Genre (play, novel, epic poem, nonfiction text); sub-genre, if applicable (example, not just play for Henry V, but history play).

• Historical context, such as the year published, the literary period, or any historical or literary connections worth noting

• Protagonist(s) and description; Antagonist(s) and description

• Brief 200-word plot summary

• Key themes: the main two or three

1. **Five Journal Entries** (500 words total for each entry)

Use close reading techniques as you read. Keep a journal in addition to any annotations you may make in that process. Use the prompts below for your journal entries. Never summarize the text!! Journal entries are to be analytical exercises.

* Choose an important quotation from what you’ve read, and expound upon how that quotation is important to the overall meaning or message of the book/play.
* Analyze the development of a dynamic character. Consider how the character changes as a result of personal discoveries, plot events, or conflict with other characters.
* One important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. Explain the sources of “pleasure and disquietude” that you experienced as you read.
* Critic Roland Barthes has said, “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Analyze a central question raised in the novel/play you read, and the extent to which it offers answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding societal issues or human behavior.
* The significance of a title such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, Measure for Measure) the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually. Explain how the significance of your book/play’s title is revealed through the authors’ use of literary devices or literary elements.

1. **A Final Overview** (400-500 words)

Complete any one of the bulleted items below.

* Find, print, and include a critical review of the book you read from a reputable source. Either refute or support the critics analysis. Be sure to use textual evidence to support your response.
* Literature often reflects the time period in which it is created. What have you learned or did you already know about the period in which your work was written? Does the book have social and political relevance to modern society? Be sure to use textual evidence to support your response.

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**Book Titles**

*Invisible Man*

*Wuthering Heights*

*Great Expectations*

*King Lear*

*Crime and Punishment*

*Heart of Darkness*

*Jane Eyre*

*Moby Dick*

*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

*The Scarlet Letter*

*The Awakening*

*Catch-22*

*Billy Budd*

*Ceremony*

*Antigone*

*As I Lay Dying*

*Beloved*

*The Color Purple*

*The Glass Menagerie*

*Native Son*

*Othello*

*Song of Solomon*

*Death of a Salesman*

*A Passage to India*

*A Raisin in the Sun*

*All the Pretty Horses*

*The Tipping Point*

*Anna Karenina*

*Bless Me, Ultima*

*Candide*

*Snowflower and the Secret Fan*

*The Grapes of Wrath*

*Jude the Obscure*

*The Jungle*

*Portrait of a Lady*

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

*Sula*

*Waiting for Godot*

*All the King’s Men*

*Cry, The Beloved Country*

*Lord Jim*

*Madame Bovary*

*The Mayor of Casterbridge*

*The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

*Pride and Prejudice*

*The Sound and the Fury*

*The Sun Also Rises*

*The Tempest*

*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*

*Things Fall Apart*

*Age of Innocence*

*The Prince*

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

*An Enemy of the People*

*Equus*

*Gulliver’s Travels*

*Hedda Gabler*

*Major Barbara*

*Medea*

*The Merchant of Venice*

*Moll Flanders*

*Mrs. Dalloway*

*Murder in the Cathedral*

*Obasan*

*The Piano Lesson*

*The Turn of the Screw*

*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

*Bleak House*

*The Cherry Orchard*

*Doctor Faustus*

*Frankenstein*

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Hamlet*

*Mrs. Warren’s Profession*

*Sister Carrie*

*A Tale of Two Cities*

*Wide Sargasso Sea*

*Wise Blood*