

# Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Summer Assignments: 2017

Ms. Bandman

e-mail: tbandman@ardsleyschools.org

Welcome to AP English 12! I am delighted that you have elected to take this challenging and stimulating course. In September, we will begin a journey together to read, discuss, interpret, and critique literary texts from a variety of genres and historical contexts. You will learn to approach texts through several theoretical lenses and to become more sophisticated readers and writers. In preparation for this work, you will engage in an independent study of the texts described below. Your notes and written assignments will serve as the basis for our preliminary discussions and writing about literature in the fall.

I look forward to working with you in September—have a great summer and enjoy reading. If you have any questions, please email me.

## Summer Assignments

**PURCHASING BOOKS:** While libraries are wonderful (obviously!), I would like you to purchase your summer reading books. Throughout the course, I will recommend purchasing all books, but ultimately you will have to decide how important that is. In the interest of keeping costs down, being environmentally friendly, and supporting independent book sellers you may try to find a used copy through Amazon or ABE.com.

\*\*\*When you come to school in September, you will take a **TEST** on the summer reading books. Students in the past have asked me to emphasize the importance of the summer reading assignments. They advise that the Foster book will be an anchor for our study the entire year. Read well. Read slowly. Read carefully.\*\*\*\*

1. ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. You may choose to read only the below selected chapters; however, if you find the book interesting, read it all!** Students have reported to me that they found this book amazingly helpful. Throughout the course, they kept returning to it again and again.

- Introduction
- Ch. 1: "Every Trip Is a Quest"
- Ch. 2: "Acts of Communion"
- Ch. 3: "Nice to eat You: Vampires"
- Ch. 5: "now, Where Have I..."
- Ch. 6: "...from Shakespeare"
- Ch. 7: "...the Bible"
- Ch. 10: "...More than Just Rain"
- Ch. 12: "Is That a Symbol?"
- Ch. 14: "...Christ Figure"
- Ch. 16 "It's All About Sex..."
- Ch. 17 "...Except Sex"
- Ch. 18: "...Baptism"
- Ch. 19: "Geography"
- Ch. 20: "Season"
- Interlude: "One Story"
- Ch. 21: "Marked for Greatness"
- Ch. 22: "He's Blind for a Reason"
- Ch. 26: "Ironies"

**Create a How to Read Literature Mini-Guide:** As you are reading How to Read Literature Like a Professor keep an *organized* outline at the back of your marble notebook of the most helpful tips Foster provides about how to identify key motifs/themes/archetypes in literature. (For example, after reading Ch. 1, I would add "The Quest" to my list, and jot down a few bullet-points of explanation).

2. ***The Secret History* by Donna Tartt (READ after you have read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*)**

### As you read...

#### Take Notes

- 1. Make sure you know character/plot events by chapter (yes, it will be on the test)
- 2. In your notes, experiment with some of Thomas Foster's strategies from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. For example, what might Foster say about the mountainous setting, the scar on Henry's head, the winter scenes, the eating scenes, etc.? You don't have to agree with everything—just experiment. You may do this in your marginal notes or in your notebook.
- 3. Remember, there will be a test the first week of school so be comfortable with this book!

### 3. Dead Poets Society

- A. Watch (or rewatch) the film *Dead Poets Society*. As you watch, draw connections to *The Secret History*.
- B. Write a 500 word response to the film and book. How does the film interact with *The Secret History*? You may use some of the below Big Ideas or come up with your own.

Some big ideas common to *The Secret History* and *Dead Poet's Society*:

The influence of teachers                      The attempt to create a fantasy world  
The impact of setting                          gods vs. men  
Collision of fantasy and reality              Secret societies  
Elitism  
The attraction of poetry from the past (Greek or otherwise) to inform how we live today.

3. **Recommendation: Want to get ahead? Read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.** Day 1 of school, I will be assigning it!

### Looking ahead...

**Core Texts for the Academic Year:** (Though it is not a requirement, I highly recommend that you obtain your own copies of the core texts. This will give you the opportunity to actively engage in your reading throughout the year by keeping a record of your thoughts and inquiries in the margins. Inexpensive used books can be obtained at "[ABE.com](http://abe.com)." (Try to purchase the correct edition of the book when noted so that we will all have the same pagination.)

- ❖ The Secret History—Donna Tartt
- ❖ The Picture of Dorian Gray—Oscar Wilde
- ❖ Beloved—Toni Morrison (*Vintage International*)
- ❖ Hamlet—William Shakespeare (*Folger Library*)
- ❖ Metamorphosis—Franz Kafka. Translated by Stanley Corngold (*Bantam Classics*)
- ❖ The Things They Carried—Tim O'Brien (*Crown*)
- ❖ Frankenstein—Mary Shelley or The Road by Cormac McCarthy
- ❖ Supplemental Readings (literary criticism, poetry, essays, short plays)

I also recommend purchasing the book **They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing** –Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Watch a Renaissance play!  
Bring in your ticket stub and then come talk to me about the play during a 9<sup>th</sup> period in September.

### Some performances this summer

1. Shakespeare in the Park (NYC) is performing *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
**Dates:** June – mid August  
**Tickets.** FREE! To get free tickets you have to line up *really early!* It's obviously easier to get them during the week than on the weekend. They also have an online lottery. <http://www.shakespeareinthepark.org>
2. Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is performing *Twelfth Night* (Garrison, NY).  
**Dates: June through September**  
**Tickets:** Tickets cost between \$30 and \$60 (depending on the night). Students get 15% off for all performances except Saturdays.  
**Other Details:** The grounds where the play takes place are beautiful! You can arrive 2 hours prior to the show to enjoy the grounds. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy a beautiful view before the play begins.  
[www.hvshakespeare.org](http://www.hvshakespeare.org)
3. New York Classical is performing *The Rivals* and *Macbeth*  
**Tickets: FREE.** <http://newyorkclassical.org>
4. Shakespeare on the Sound in Norwalk, CT is performing *Macbeth*  
**Tickets: Free**  
**Dates: June and early July** <http://www.shakespeareonthesound.org/shakesbeer/>
5. The Drilling Company in Bryant Park in Manhattan (walking distance from Grand Central) is performing *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Twelfth Night*  
<http://www.drillingcompany.org/>

The following link has a list of additional performances in NYC.  
[http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index\\_shakespeare.php](http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/index_shakespeare.php)

6. The Public Theater is doing a production of *Hamlet* (and, hey, we're reading that!)  
<http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/theaters/anspacher-theater/theater.php>

**\*\*\*\*Alternatively, find another Shakespeare production to watch. Lots of Shakespeare (and much of it free!) over the summer**

### Supplies for class

1. 2 marble notebooks (one will stay in the classroom)
2. highlighters
3. a box of tissues (you will appreciate this immensely during cold season in the winter and allergy season in the spring--think of it as insurance you are paying for in anticipation of your need)
4. The usual pens / pencils and place to keep handouts

\*\*\*You will not need a laptop. I have chromebooks in the classroom for your use. No other devices are needed or permitted (see me privately if you have a specific or personal concern)\*\*\*

