

## Summer Reading Assignment 2019-2020 AP Literature and Composition

One of the main differences between an AP English class and a regular English class is the amount of effort students are required to put into their work. An AP student is expected to display consistent critical thought and integrity regarding all assignments and readings, as well as every aspect of the summer assignment.

You are to obtain a copy of How to Read Literature like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster **AND YOU ARE TO READ IT FIRST** so that you read the fiction text with a critical eye. You will also need to purchase Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove which you will properly annotate. Again, you will be REQUIRED to annotate the text, marking significant passages and writing abundant *insightful* marginal notes. My philosophy is that a book is not sufficiently experienced unless it has been annotated. You will need to bring both texts the first day of class; annotations can be checked for a grade. EBOOKS AND KINDLE DEVICES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN AP ENGLISH. If you are unsure how to mark a book, I have attached an outline that describes this process in detail. Be prepared for a test, and the annotated copy will also be a test grade..

### *How to Annotate a Work*

1. Interact with the work – talk back to it.
  - a. Write THOUGHTFUL *questions* or *comments* in the margins in response to the text. Is it shocking? Horrific? Sad? Joyful? Interesting? Confusing? SAY SO. (Ex. Is this character related to Catherine? Or Heathcliff is hateful!)
2. Connections
  - a. Begin to trust your gut when reading. Does the passage remind you of a song? A poem? Another character, setting, conflict or event from a literary work? A story you read? Consider also the Bible, history, art, etc. Recall How to Read Lit..... Your associations may carry more weight than you may realize at first. Write the association down in the margin. (Flood may ref. Bible.)
3. **Mark words unfamiliar to you. Look them up and write the definition in the margin.**
4. Be aware of *style*
  - a. Indicate words that reveal the attitude of the author, or their **TONE**.
  - b. Indicate **usage of literary device (metaphor, simile, etc.)**
  - c. Mark the development of **symbol or motif**
    - i. Symbols occur in literary works in order for the author to employ representation of an idea BEYOND the literal object. (The green light in Gatsby can represent the physical distance between Gatsby and Daisy, or her social inattainability, or the beacon of the American Dream)

ii. Motifs appear lacking any multi-layered reference but contribute to plot development and tone. (The vivid colors that appear throughout Gatsby such as gold, pink and green contribute to the dreamlike, hazy yet vibrant quality of the decadent decay of the Jazz Age) Often motifs appear as a repetition of a word or image.

5. Literary elements

- a. Mark and label passages that develop setting
- b. Mark and label passages that may suggest theme
- c. Mark and label passages that develop conflict
- d. Mark and label development of characterization, direct and indirect.
  - i. What do a character's actions, appearance, words or responses reveal about them?
  - ii. What do the author or narrator's comments regarding the character reveal?

6. Quotes

- a. Mark and make notes in the margin to document any quote you feel may be of significance. Indicate WHY. WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE?

7. Concepts in How to Read Literature Like a Professor

- a. Mark text that exemplifies interpretive strategy found in Foster. (i.e. vampirism, communion, flight, disease, Christ figures etc.)

**ANNOTATIONS ARE GRADED FOR QUALITY > NOT QUANTITY**

**\*\*\*Aim for interpretation and analysis and not summary\*\*\***

**OMG and LOL are not annotations.**