

AP English Literature and Composition

Summer Reading 2022

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"What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn't happen much, though."

– J.D. Salinger, Catcher in the Rye

Welcome to AP English! AP English Literature and Composition is an intensive course designed to expose you to many great works of literature. Although we must prepare for the AP Exam, our main goals will be the advanced study of literature, insightful analysis, and effective written communication. We will therefore be sampling a wide range of authors and genres throughout the year. This summer you are to prepare for a challenging course of study by reading the listed texts and working on corresponding writing assignments. All summer reading and writing is due on the first day of classes unless otherwise noted. Also, I will be starting with texts that are associated with Jane Eyre, so it is really important that you read the text thoroughly and in full. There will be a continued pattern and theme that builds off of this text. Also, you will notice that there are some poetry assignments that go along with the reading of the novel. Sparknotes or any other substitutions to texts will not work at the AP level.

Titles listed below, followed by details for writing assignments. (Be aware that if there is a school wide reading requirement, you will be responsible for reading whatever that text is as well.)

Informational:

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster ISBN:

9780062301673

https://www.amazon.com/How-Read-Literature-Like-Professor/dp/0062301675/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_o?encoding=UTF8&qid=1618924366&sr=8-3

Novel:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte ISBN: **9780486424491**

https://www.amazon.com/Jane-Eyre-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486424499/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=jane+eyre&qid=1618926869&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyRURJRkhCQ1VRRoomZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA4MzMzMzMyMTIyOVBSTkUwVDlDWetYJmVuY3J5cHRlZEFkSWQ9QTAyMzZyYWFIESFQ2NDNPRUJVJndpZGdldE5hbWU9c3BfYXRmJmFjdGlvb11jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNoJmRvTm9oTG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==

You must keep in touch over the summer! Please post to my blog at <https://littleliteraturelover.blogspot.com> I will need to invite you to this blog once you have joined AP, so send me an email when your registration is official! I would like to hear from you on my blog once in June, once in July, and once in August. I would love it, too, if this could be a place where you can discuss how the readings are going with your classmates. You can also email me anytime with comments, questions, concerns!

Important Notes: 1. You are expected to read the texts listed above, unabridged, during the summer. Please devote yourself to critical and close readings of the books, not simple surface readings! 2. Study guides (such as Cliffs Notes and SparkNotes) may NEVER be used as a substitute for the reading assigned.

Required Summer Assignments: Purchase your own copies of all summer reading works as part of the assignment to annotate as you read.

1. For How to Read Literature Like a Professor (HTRLLAP):

This text will help you and be quite useful for our study of literature throughout the year. Please annotate this text. (During the first week of class, I will check your annotated books. One of the first grades you receive for AP English Literature and Composition will be for completing annotation of the books you read over the summer.)

2. For Jane Eyre: Please annotate this text, keeping in mind what you've read in HTRLLAP. Pay attention to how you can apply what you've read from Foster's book to heighten your understanding and enrich your reading of this novel. While the number of annotations may vary amongst students and chapters, your annotations should reflect a high level of engagement with the text. These annotations will facilitate your understanding, essay writing, and class discussions. Choose three chapters from How to Read Literature Like a Professor that apply to this novel. Then, write a minimum of a one page analysis for each HTRLLAP chapter of your book using the guidelines of the chapters. For example, if you choose the chapter "Is That a Symbol," you will turn in a one page analysis of symbols in the novel. Include at least two specific textual examples that show how the author is using the technique or idea discussed in Foster's chapter. Use MLA parenthetical citation to indicate where in the novel you found your examples.

3. For Poetry alongside Jane Eyre: There are some poems that I would like you to read as you come to certain places in Jane Eyre. Please read the following carefully, so that you know what

to do.

- a. After reading Jane Eyre chapter 3, read the poem, *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe. You can find it here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/48860/the-rave>

Analyze the gothic elements that are present in both texts. What is “gothic”? What kinds of things do you see present in both texts? How does the supernatural influence both Jane and the speaker of the poem? Using textual examples, record your findings down in a google doc.

- b. After reading Jane Eyre chapter 9, read the poem, *On the Death of Anne Bronte* by Charlotte Bronte. You can find it here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43710/on-the-death-of-anne-bronte>

Compare the author’s literary style regarding death, in both poetry and prose. How does Charlotte Bronte write about both grief and loss? How does death impact Jane, as well as Charlotte? What does this focus on death reveal about the author’s character and style? Using textual examples, record your findings in the same google doc.

- c. After reading Jane Eyre chapter 10, read the poem, “*Hope*” is *the thing with feathers* by Emily Dickinson. You can find it here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42889/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers-314>

Track the themes of hope and perseverance in the novel and the poem. Consider the adversity that Jane has had to endure during her childhood, in her aunt’s house, and at boarding school. How do these contribute to her resilience? What does the poem say? How do these things compare with her relationship to Helen, their shared views, their

friendship? Using textual evidence, write about these in the same google doc.

- d. After reading Jane Eyre chapter 38, read the poem, *Sonnet 43* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. (You will recognize this from English 11). You can find it here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43742/sonnets-from-the-portuguese-43-how-do-i-love-thee-let-me-count-the-ways2>

Think about the topic of love and how it is present in the novel and in the poem. Where do you see overlapping themes of love and devotion within the two texts? What connections are there between love and the soul? Using textual evidence, write your findings in the same google doc.

- e. After completing the novel, read the poem, *Verses Written By A Young Lady, On Women Born To Be Controll'd* by Anonymous. You can find it here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v9WYA9ntwy9hHvr3m0BJytvuw2JAtmPzGUF58hAqh1M/edit?usp=sharing>

This poem will provide you with some historical insight as to the treatment and expectations of women in the 18th and 19th centuries. Using textual evidence, write in the same google doc how the narrators of these two texts comply or rebel against forms of control.

