

12th Grade AP Literature and Composition

2021-2022 Summer Reading List

“And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in.” ~ Haruki Murakami

I congratulate you on accepting the challenge of Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. The senior year will introduce you to world literature. Through the study of various literary forms, we will examine the changes in both writing and culture. As part of this program, I ask you to read **at least** two books over the summer. Both of these books can be purchased at any of our local bookstores or borrowed from the libraries. Furthermore, I have established a Google Classroom for summer reading. The Join code is **bsnmgna**. I will also post a remind code in the classroom, so if you have any questions, you can get in touch with me. When the school year starts, I will be deleting this classroom so that you are not overwhelmed by too many classrooms. My advice is to sign up before school lets out, so if you have issues, you can check with me. As you progress through the books, please post your comments (these can be significant quotes with your reactions, reflections on writing styles, or questions you may have.) **I would like your response to *How to Read Literature like a Professor* posted no later than July 30th (2 postings). You will post on the other book at least **twice before August 31th**. One of the postings must apply ideas from *How to Read Literature like a Professor* to a chapter from your book.** The postings reflect an AP student’s intellect and drive, so they should clearly be longer than one or two paragraphs. I will be checking weekly and will answer questions and leave my comments. Upon your return to class in September, I will be assigning a separate essay of your reading to assess your initial writing skills and comprehension skills. If you are looking for any other books to read and aim for books that have shown up on the AP Literature and Composition test, check Google Classroom for a list of books appearing on the AP test as well as our fall syllabus – feel free to read ahead. Also, if I have not already set you up your Google Classroom, please email me so I can get you the password. This will be our primary means of communication, and I will post all assignments on there. Thank you and have a wonderful summer. If you have any additional questions regarding the selections, email me at tjbelasco@gmail.com. **The single greatest trick to succeeding on the AP test, building your vocabulary, and improving critical thinking is to READ. Read every chance you get. The more you read, the better you will become at reading. Remember, “ferrum ferro acuitur”**

PS. Do NOT throw away your literary term flashcards. These will prove invaluable for your senior year.

Mr. Belasco

Descriptions for all of these books are available at www.amazon.com It is always better to support your local bookstore or buy from <https://www.indiebound.org/> (a collection of independent booksellers online.)

The course will base much of its instruction on this book – take notes. **Read this book before reading your other novels**

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor : A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster**

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

About the Author

Tom Foster is Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint, where he teaches classes in contemporary fiction, drama and poetry as well as creative writing and composition. He has written several books on twentieth-century British and Irish literature and poetry and lives in East Lansing, Michigan.

Prof. Foster's Newest Book: [How To Read Poetry Like a Professor](#)

Please choose one book from the following list

1. [All the Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr
2. [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#) by John Irving
3. [Kafka on the Shore](#) by Haruki Murakami
4. [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) by Zora Neale Hurston
5. [Love Medicine](#) by Louise Erdrich
6. [Invisible Man](#) by Ralph Ellison (*Mature Subject Matter*)

The authors and works represented here have all appeared on the College Board's AP English Literature Exam. AP English is considered a college-level course and, as such, may include readings with mature language and themes.

7. [The Handmaid's Tale](#) by Margaret Atwood (*Mature Subject Matter*)
8. [The Things They Carried](#) by Tim O'Brien (*Mature Subject Matter*)
9. [Atonement](#) by Ian McEwan
10. [All the Pretty Horses](#) by Cormac McCarthy
11. [The Namesake](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri
12. [To the Lighthouse](#) by Virginia Woolf
13. [Wuthering Heights](#) by Emily Bronte
14. [What is the What](#) by David Eggers
15. [The Poisonwood Bible](#) by Barbara Kingsolver
16. [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini
17. [The History of Love](#) by Nicole Krauss
18. [The Underground Railroad](#) by Colson Whitehead (*Mature Content*)
19. [Never Let Me Go](#) by Kazuo Ishiguro
20. [The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#) - Junot Diaz (*Mature Content*)
21. [White Noise](#) by Don DeLillo
22. [Middlesex](#) by Jeffery Eugenides (*Mature Content*)
23. [The Story of Edgar Sawtelle](#) by Deckle Edge
24. [A Man Called Ove](#) by Frederic Backman
25. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens
26. [Americanah](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
27. [Little Fires Everywhere](#) by Celeste Ng

Optional Further Reading: [How to Read a Book](#) by Mortimer Adler.

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