

AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading–2022-23

Welcome to AP Literature

The goal for this course is to prepare you for the AP Literature & Composition Exam in May. This class will help you prepare for college as you improve your analytical skills and writing. Every student in this class is expected to take the AP exam. If you do not, it does not change the rigor or focus of the class—you are still expected to do AP-level work. In order to succeed in this class, you must read, so get a good start on this by completing your summer reading assignment.

Summer Reading

While you may not yet know when you will have this class on your schedule, you should get your books and do your reading/assignment this summer so you are ready. If you don't have the course until spring, you'll already have your assignment done and only need to do a quick refresh over the holidays to be prepared. Please buy these two books: ***A Lesson Before Dying*** by Ernest Gaines AND ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*** by Thomas Foster. (You will need these books in class, so buy your own copies. They can both be purchased used and inexpensively at 2nd & Charles in Hoover or on many online sites like Amazon.com.)

Summer Assignment Part #1: Read ***A Lesson Before Dying***. This is a wonderful, inspirational, easy-to-read book that makes Mrs. G. cry buckets of tears, so have those tissues ready!

Summer Assignment Part #2:

1. Read the Introduction from ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor***.
2. Read the chapter titled "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, too." (In the first edition of this book, it is chapter 14 beginning on page 117, but there are newer editions of the book, so the page/chapter number could be different in yours.)
3. In this chapter, there is a checklist of 18 characteristics of Jesus Christ (p. 119 in first edition) that are often alluded to in literature. For your assignment, list the characteristics that you think apply to Jefferson in *A Lesson Before Dying* and explain how Jefferson models each characteristic. Spoiler Alert: Jefferson is a literary "Christ figure"--meaning the author wrote him purposely to resemble Christ in his personality and circumstances. So MOST of the items on that list apply to Jefferson!

The written assignment (#2) and a copy of each book are due in class the first day I see you in class (in August if 1st semester/in January if 2nd semester). This assignment is being made available to you in many ways, so "I didn't know" is not a valid excuse.

Other Supplies and Books Needed for Class

- We'll probably still be using Schoology/Google and working online, but you may also want to have loose-leaf paper, a binder with tabs to organize handouts and your work, and black or blue ink pens (no hand-written essays may be written in pencil!)
- *1984* by George Orwell (later in the semester--this is the last book we read)
- two to three other novels/plays that will be selected by students throughout the year for outside reading assignments (lists of options will be provided later)

I'm looking forward to a great year with you! Contact me at the email below if you have any questions. I check my email at least once a week over the summer and throughout the school day when we are in school. Happy summer and happy reading!

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