

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade AP Literature and Composition

## 2017-2018 Summer Reading List

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 message boards for each of the summer readings. You can reach the website at the following link: <http://lcmraplit.freeforums.net/>, once you go to the page follow the instructions for signing up. My advice is to do so before school lets out so if you have any problems, 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 30<sup>th</sup> (2 postings)**. You will post on the other book at least **twice before August 31<sup>th</sup>**. 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 access 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 Edmodo 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 Edmodo, 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 [belasco@alumni.rutgers.edu](mailto:belasco@alumni.rutgers.edu).

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

Mr. Belasco

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.

## Please choose one book from the following list

1. [\*A Prayer for Owen Meany\*](#) by John Irving
2. [\*Kafka on the Shore\*](#) by Haruki Murakami
3. [\*Their Eyes Were Watching God\*](#) by Zora Neale Hurston
4. [\*Love Medicine\*](#) by Louise Erdrich
5. [\*Invisible Man\*](#) by Ralph Ellison (*Mature Subject Matter*)
6. [\*The Handmaid's Tale\*](#) by Margaret Atwood (*Mature Subject Matter*)
7. [\*Atonement\*](#) by Ian McEwan
8. [\*All the Pretty Horses\*](#) by Cormac McCarthy
9. [\*The Namesake\*](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri
10. [\*To the Lighthouse\*](#) by Virginia Woolf
11. [\*Wuthering Heights\*](#) by Emily Bronte
12. [\*What is the What\*](#) by David Eggers
13. [\*Under the Feet of Jesus\*](#) by Helena Maria Viramontes
14. [\*The Poisonwood Bible\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver

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.

15. [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini
16. [The History of Love](#) by Nicole Krauss
17. [The Underground Railroad](#) by Colson Whitehead
18. [Never Let Me Go](#) by Kazuo Ishiguro
19. [The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#) - Junot Diaz
20. [White Noise](#) by Don DeLillo
21. [Middlesex](#) by Jeffery Eugenides (Mature Content)
22. [The Legend of Edgar Sawtelle](#) by Deckle Edge
23. [A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrick Backman

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

**Descriptions for all of these books are available at** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**LCMRAP Discussion board:** <http://lcmraplit.freeforums.net/>



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.