

AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment

I am so happy that you are interested in entering the exciting world of AP Literature where you will have the opportunity to explore great literature! As a student in an AP course, much will be expected from you, but the reward will be one that you will enjoy in your future studies.

1. **Required Reading:** Purchase the book *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster (ISBN 978-0-06-230167-3). You will need a copy of the book for use throughout the school year in the classroom. A hard copy is recommended, but a digital copy will suffice as long as you have access to it for the entire school year. Please read the entire book. The chapters build upon each other and are designed to help you understand the concepts that are presented throughout and will begin to prepare you for the AP Literature assignments ahead.

Written Assignment: For each chapter (there are 26), read and carefully consider the methods Foster is advising. In outline or bullet fashion, compile a list of the three to five most important points he makes per chapter. *This may be handwritten or typed, but the paper must be turned in on the first day of school as part of your summer assignment grade.* We will be using this assignment as a guide for analyzing literature as we progress through the school year.

2. **Required Reading:** Choose one of the following books that demonstrate Post-War Angst. Read the novel of your choice and complete the following assignment:
 - a. *1984* by George Orwell
 - b. *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
 - c. *Snow Hunters* by Paul Yoon

All three of these novels demonstrate that if man seeks to find security and identity in our world instead of in Christ, he will fail (Romans 12:1).

Written Assignment:

- a. For the novel you choose, complete the **AP English Literature and Composition Review Form for Major Works**. This document is provided for you at the end of this file and should be printed out and completed per the instructions. (*On-line submissions will not be accepted for this assignment.*) DO YOUR OWN INTERPRETIVE WORK. Sites or sources such as *SparkNotes*, etc., are not acceptable sources of academic literary analysis, especially at the AP level. Do not use another's work for your own interpretation. *This assignment must be turned in on the first day of school and is part of your summer assignment grade.*
- b. Be prepared to write an extensive literary analysis of the novel that you chose in the *first few weeks* of class. This analysis will include the author's use of literary devices such as symbolism, figurative language (metaphors, similes,

etc.), sensory imagery (visual as well as the other physical senses), character foils, parallel plotlines, and so on, to convey plot, character and theme development. Note these specific elements as you read and annotate the novel as this will greatly help you when you write the analysis.

- 3.** If you have any questions or need clarification of the assignments, please e-mail me at janellepenny@thefirstacademy.org. While I will be away from school for the summer, I will be checking e-mail periodically and will respond as quickly as possible. Best wishes for your summer and I hope that you enjoy the beginning of your exploration of the world of literature!

Name _____

Date _____

**AP English Literature and Composition
Summer Assignment
Review Form for Major Works**

Full Title of Work _____

Year of Publication _____ Historical Era/
Cultural Movement _____

Author _____ Birth-Death Dates/
Places _____

Setting(s) [*times and places as well as significant socio-economic and historical aspects*]

Primary _____

Secondary _____

Other _____

Major Characters

Protagonist(s) _____

Antagonist(s) _____

Primary Foils [*to whom?*] _____

Primary Love Interests and/or Sidekicks _____

Minor Characters

Of Significant Plot Function _____

Of Symbolic Function _____

Other _____

Central Conflicts [*identify both sides*]

Primary External _____

Primary Internal _____

Secondary _____

Key Plot Points

Exposition _____

[Subplots] _____

Rising Action _____

[Subplots] _____

Dramatic Climax/Height of Dramatic Tension _____

[Subplots] _____

Falling Action _____

[Subplots] _____

Resolution/Denouement/Catastrophe _____

[Subplots] _____

