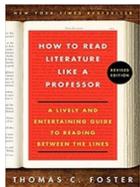




## AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Guidelines

First, you will read selected chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Described as “a lively and entertaining guide for reading between the lines,” this book will teach you to read like an English teacher. You will sharpen your analytical skills for identifying and understanding symbols, themes, and many other narrative devices.



ISBN-13: 978-0062301673

As you read *How to Read Literature*, write 3 to 5 statements that reflect the important points that Foster makes in the following chapters: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Label each section with its chapter name and try to capture the lesson that Foster wants readers to take from his chapters. These are lessons that we will refer to throughout the year in AP English. Also, include a work **that you have read** that coincides with the main idea of each assigned chapter. For example, in the discussion of violence in Chapter 11 of *How to Read*, you could list *Lord of the Flies* and write a sentence or two about how it demonstrates Foster’s explanation of the symbolism behind the use of violence. You will turn this assignment in on the second day of school as proof of the completion of the reading.

You should type this document according to MLA format, print it, and turn it in on August 10th. It will count for 50% of your summer reading test grade.

***N.B.:* *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is used in a lot of AP classes all over the country. I am aware that Google is happy to do all your thinking for you, but I strongly encourage you to do your own work. If your first thought is “Where can I find these answers on the internet?” then you may not be suited to AP coursework.**

Second, you are also expected to read *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.



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**On the second full day of school, Tuesday, August 10th, you will have a test that covers *Great Expectations* only. You will not be allowed to use notes or the book itself on the test.**

**The signed Summer Reading Compliance form is due on Tuesday as well. This test will count for 50% of your Summer Reading grade.**

Since this year will prepare you not only for the AP exam in English Literature but for university-level classes as well, you will need to increase your practice of “close reading,” which involves reading with a pen or pencil in hand. By now you should be well equipped to determine how an author uses literary devices such as symbolism, conflict, parallel structure, setting, and figurative language to communicate the theme(s) of his work.

While reading this novel, you should annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins of your book) for the following:

- words and phrases that stand out to you; **circle unfamiliar vocabulary**
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key conflicts that characters face
- sections that are confusing for you and any questions you have
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, or tv shows
- connections you make to your own life
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, symbols, and irony)
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.)

On the second full day of school, Tuesday, August 10th, you will have a test that covers this novel. You will not be allowed to use notes or the book itself on the test. I encourage you to review your annotations to prepare for the test. The Summer Reading Compliance form will also be due this day as well and will count for 11 points of your grade.

I look forward to sharing this class with you!

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Charles Dickens had an expansive vocabulary, which is one reason, among so many, that English teachers love his novels. For the vocabulary portion of the GRE exam, I read *David Copperfield* and circled every unfamiliar word. At the end of each chapter, I culled these circled words and defined them. Fortunately for Lamar students, I did well on the GRE. You should do the same, and I will award five bonus points to a future test or paper for your vocabulary list from *Great Expectations*.