

AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading 2017-2018

Welcome to AP English V! I hope you're looking forward to next year's class. In an effort to build a literary foundation from which to draw for the AP Literature and Composition exam, you are required to read the three texts listed below. When we return from summer break, you should be prepared on day one. Students will be randomly selected to present their book talk of Chopin's *The Awakening* or Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. Therefore, it is imperative that you have read all three texts, completed your journal, and prepared your book talk by day one.

- 1. Thomas C. Foster—*How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
(Read Foster before the other two.)**
- 2. Kate Chopin—*The Awakening***
- 3. William Shakespeare—*Merchant of Venice***

ASSIGNMENT #1

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

- Take notes from each chapter as you read. You will be referring to Foster's ideas when you write your journals for the other two selections.

ASSIGNMENT #2

2. *The Awakening*

- Keep a journal as you read – four entries minimum.
(*Journal instructions are listed below.*)

ASSIGNMENT #3

3. *Merchant of Venice*

- Keep a journal as you read – four entries minimum.
(*Journal instructions are listed below.*)

JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Write at least four entries.
- Respond to the section you read; you could respond to one chapter, ten chapters, or whatever section you read in your sitting. Tell about your impressions of the book.
- Respond by answering questions like these:

- **How did that section make you feel? Why??**
- **Did anything surprise you? What specifically? Why?**
- **What was your favorite part, and why?**
- **What did you notice about the way the characters behaved and changed?**
- **What did you notice about the writing/language of the book?**
- **What connections to Foster can you make?**

IMPORTANT: Incorporate into your journal entries references to Foster's book; show how reading Foster has influenced your understanding of the text. For example, you may write something like this: "When Edna goes swimming, it reminds one of what Foster said about water being a symbol for salvation or baptism. Maybe Edna is experiencing..." There should be enough references to Foster to prove you have read and understood Foster's book.

Each entry should be approximately 250-300 words in length. The entries can be handwritten. (In fact, it's preferable it means that you're actively responding to the reading immediately after having read it.)

You will turn in your response journals the first day of school in August. Turn all the entries in together, perhaps in a loose-leaf folder. Respond intelligently to the reading, but make sure these are your own thoughts; do not use Cliff's Notes or Sparknotes or any such thing.

You will be graded on the degree to which you interact with and offer commentary about the text. **Please do not just summarize the plot.**

ASSIGNMENT #4

(Following assignment for choice of #2 or #3)

Book Talk:

- 5 pts. *A visual: Draw/paint a picture of your favorite part of the book. You may not be a great artist, but do your best. Fill up the page; no stick figures
- 20 pts.*Connecting knowledge from Foster reading: Connect Foster to the most important ideas, or theme/motifs, of your chosen book. Write at least one page, giving at least 5 examples from your chosen book and the suggested connection to Foster's text.
- 20 pts. *An alternate ending or place yourself in the problem situation of the book and tell how you would have acted in the same situation
- 20 pts. *A character analysis (Choose one and discuss how the character's statements and actions augment the overall meaning of the novel. Also interpret other characters' interaction with the character you have chosen.)
- 20 pts. *Write an analysis of the 4 elements of plot (explication, rising action, climax, falling action/resolution). Include at least 12 entries/events total.
- 15 pts. *Presentation to class

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at

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Have a safe and fun summer!

Mr. Glassman

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Other possible novels and plays:

Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*

F. Kafka's *Metamorphosis*

O. Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Z. N. Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

H. Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* (Drama)

Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Drama)

O. Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Drama)

G. Orwell's *1984*
J. Steinbeck's *East of Eden*
Henrik Ibsen—*A Doll's House*