

## Mrs. Powell's Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

### 2017 Summer Readings and Assignments

**bonnie.powell@yourcharlotteschools.net**

Hello and welcome to AP Literature and Composition. I hope you had a successful year and that you will be able to recover quickly. I am looking forward to discussing this year's summer assignments with you as I truly feel they will change, or at least enhance, the way you perceive literature and will encourage you to explore new territory. I have copies of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* in my classroom library which you may check out on a first-come-first-served basis; however, the book is so great, you may want to purchase your own copy. I would like to encourage you to try to purchase your summer novel, though, so that you may annotate directly in the book. There will be **no excuse** for not having these assignments complete **and with you** on the day you return to school, for we will begin our exploration immediately. Students will receive a zero on any missing summer assignment(s) and, in the case of a class transfer, will take the zeroes with them. My e-mail address is on this paper should you run into any questions or concerns over the summer. Please do not wait until the last minute, though. First of all, I probably won't be able to help at that point, or you may not enjoy the summer experience as you will feel rushed or resentful. Instead, enjoy your literary travels.

### **2016 SUMMER READINGS**

**1. Required (Please read first):** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (2003) or current edition, Thomas C. Foster. You may also download. An outline of the chapters is also available on my website, but please do not replace the actual reading with the outline notes.

#### **2. Required both A and B:**

**A]** Choose and read ONE novel from the list of contemporary classics (post-1978) on the back of this page. Any of these titles would be appropriate for the open-response of the AP test IF you were to read them thoughtfully and analytically as a work of literature. **Caveat 1:** Many of these works have been made into films. The film, as you know, is never a replacement for the novel. First of all, you are analyzing literature--the words and their arrangements are the creations of these authors. Secondly, the film is usually not an accurate representation of the novel. It has been made into a script. The order, characters, and endings have been altered, and parts have been deleted or added. **Caveat 2:** Do not **replace** reading the novel with online "aides." This is a summer assignment for which you are allowed CHOOSE your novel. You need to see if you can read the book by yourself. You will have to be able to read and analyze by yourself to prep for the exam and to succeed in college. **Caveat 3:** Do not read works that you have read for another class, even as a summer reading. You need to move forward and garner as much reading experience as possible.

**B]** Choose and read **ONE short story and ONE poem** from Foster's appendix (pages 285-293). Short stories and poems are indicated with quotation marks. Once again, attack this with your own brain.

**Contemporary Classics List-** Please try to acquire your own copy of the book. We would like for you to annotate in the actual book as you would in college. Perhaps you can go in on an order from Amazon with your friends, go to the library, or try a used-book store like Goodwill Books in Venice. Please **DO NOT** read works you have already read or have covered in your high school curriculum, including as a summer reading. You want to cover as much ground as possible. Many of these works contain mature subject matter; if you or your parents deem any work objectionable, please choose a different one. If you don't like the novel, please choose a different one. Perhaps you could do some research or ask your peers before committing.

- 1) *The Namesake*-- Lahiri
- 2) *The Things They Carried*-- O'Brien
- 3) *The Women of Brewster Place*- Naylor
- 4) *Native Speaker* --Lee
- 5) *The Poisonwood Bible*-- Kingsolver
- 6) *Jasmine* -- Mukherjee
- 7) *A Thousand Splendid Suns*-- Hosseini
- 8) *A God of Small Things*-- Roy
- 9) *Monkey Bridge*-- Cao
- 10) *Never Let Me Go* – Ishiguro
- 11) *A Bend in the River* – Naipaul

## Mrs. Powell's AP Literature and Composition

### 2017 Summer Assignments

**I] Annotations:** Annotate your novel, your short story, AND your poem with the annotation style of your choice: write in your book (always preferred for a college course) with color code sticky notes, journal. There are annotation-style suggestions on the LBHS Website under Media Center in the Study Skills Appendix. Your **notes** for each genre **must include notes (plural and thorough) on all of the following considerations:**

#### **Required Annotations List. Notes Must Include Unique and Significant Instances of...**

- 1) Literary and Rhetorical Devices, Diction (consider also sounds of words, imagery, and connotations), Syntax.
- 2) Perspective= Point of view and note any pov shifts. Author's tone, or attitude toward subject matter, and note any tone shifts.
- 3) Narrator's or speaker's evolutions, devolutions, epiphanies, or other transformations and their causes and effects?
- 4) Potential symbols, archetypes, motifs.
- 5) Settings including settings within settings within settings, and significant details including props.
- 6) Roles of minor characters, including those who may appear briefly or not at all.
- 7) Connections (NOT plotty connections) with other works of literary merit you have read in high school.

**II] Analysis Paragraphs:** Using your annotations from above, write a thorough one-paragraph analysis including gracefully embedded parenthetical citations for your textual evidence. You must write 5 different paragraphs for the novel, 3 paragraphs for the short story, and 2 paragraphs for the poem. More than one (1) paragraph may address the same Annotation List number from above; for example, three (3) of your paragraphs for your novel may address three (3) different moments of an epiphany or awareness and the subsequent transformations resulting from these epiphanies. However, you **MUST USE ALL** eight (7) types of **Annotations** listed above at least once somewhere within the **10 total paragraphs**. Make sure you label which Annotation type you are addressing. See the sample below as an example of a thorough paragraph response.

#### **Example for a paragraph on Annotation Notes List #1:**

**Literary Device- Simile:** Tim O'Brien ends the first section of the novel with the visual parallel, "they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry" (2). Initially, O'Brien stresses the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival, heavy "like a freight train" (2). However, the combination of the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, the responsibility for the men with whom one fights, and the physical weight accentuate the daily burdens of the soldiers in Vietnam. This quote also addresses the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting. Referring to the reasons as "mysteries" and "unknowns," the soldiers cling to the only certainty -- things they had to carry--in a confusing world where "normal" rules are suspended.

**III] Tone and Style Vocabulary:** Create a chart of 6 labels comprised of the protagonist, antagonists, and key settings for your novel and use the tone and style vocabulary from last year, on my website, to list at least 5 vocabulary words for each category with a brief note on how that word represents your label. See the sample below.

#### **Example of a label and some representative words:**

##### **Lady Macbeth**

- **Iconoclastic-** "unsex" me, pluck the babe from my breast- challenges traditional gender roles
- **Crepuscular-** summoning the ministers of darkness, cloak of darkness to hide the "deed"

**IV] Tracing Potential Themes:** Next, as you read your summer novel, please take notes through annotations or stickies of the way 3 of the thematic questions from below are addressed and trace their development throughout. These notes will become the foundation for your first timed write when you return. You will have to create an argument (thesis/claim) in the style of an AP open-response question (Question 3 on the exam) and will have to defend that claim with evidence from the text. Remember we are thinking in terms of addressing universals, society, and human nature—not in terms plot or retelling the story. When I say “we” here, I mean people/ society which includes us—the reader. The characters are experiencing what humanity experiences. We share.

- 1) What causes alienation and how do we address or react to our alienation?
- 2) What leads to social and moral development?
- 3) How do we define “justice” and how do we search for it?
- 4) How do surroundings shape our moral and psychological development?
- 5) How do desires both propel and obstruct our development?
- 6) What are some of the ways that illusions or misconceptions about ourselves or our society are shattered?
- 7) What are some potentially dangerous political and social issues, and how do we confront these issues?

**V] Foster in Flashback:** Please type a 750- 950 word Fosteresque analysis of one of the full-length works you read for English in freshman or sophomore year. For example, “Concerning Violence” in *Macbeth* (the function of cruelty was the open prompt from two years ago, incidentally) or “Or the Bible” in *Fahrenheit 451*?

**VI] Review Sheet:** Complete a novel review sheet for your summer novel; be thorough so you may actually review it before the exam. This is on the Powell website.

**VII] Awareness and Preparation:** Please go to the College Board website:  
<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home?affiliateId=stdlp&bannerId=apstd7>

Read the AP Literature Course Home Page, Frequently Asked Questions, and Exam Tips. Sign up for access to practice tests and to receive exam scores. Please come to class ready to ask questions, take a quiz, and to take initiative in this course.

**VIII] Multiple Choice:** Please go to the College Board website:

[http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/468260\\_1987\\_EnglishLit\\_RE\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/468260_1987_EnglishLit_RE_for_web.pdf)

Complete the multiple choice section pgs. 6-21 of the 1987 sample released multiple choice exam. Check your own answers (resist peeking), and document and define any unfamiliar terminology or vocabulary in the questions and answer choices. Bring defined terms with you the first day.

Next, read over the three essay prompts and the readers’ commentary. DO NOT WRITE the essays. Just get a feel for the prompts and the language of the evaluators.

**IX] Allusions:** Please look up and identify the allusions on my website. Make a Quizlet, or notecards, or whatever your preferred vocab study method is. We will be taking quizzes and will be referring back to these throughout the course. Please add to this list as you run into allusions in your novel, short story, and your poem.