

# Summer Assignment -- AP Literature

For the summer work, please purchase copies of these books:

1. ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*** by Thomas C. Foster
2. ***1984*** by George Orwell

You must own your own copies of these books because you will be expected to annotate them — I will be checking at the start of the year. Library copies will not do.

(1) Purchase a bound composition notebook (the kind that usually has a black speckled cover) to use as a journal. Then begin reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Skip the two "sex" chapters for now. As you are reading, take notes in your composition notebook about information you are learning and how it applies to books, stories, poems, or plays you have read while you have been in high school.

Organize your notes with the chapter title as the heading, followed by the sub-heading "Notes" and the notes related to that chapter. Note: These should be notes — lists, outlines, bullet points— not narrative. Skip a line and write the heading "Application" and apply what you have read in HTRLLAP to what you have read. Begin each new chapter on a separate page. Read all of HTRLLAP, but take notes on at least 10 of the chapters evenly though the book, not the first 10 chapters. Keep your notes concise; you should have between 10 and 15 pages (no more!) of handwritten notes by the time you finish the book.

(2) Then move on to *1984*. After reading a few chapters, write a journal entry in your composition notebook. The journal entry should start on a new page with the chapter title, and then you should write the heading "Summary." Briefly summarize the plot of the section in 1-2 sentences. Skip a line and write the heading "Reflection" and write 1 to 2 pages in which you do the following: reflect on key issues and questions from that section; possibly spend some time making connections to other books you have read, current events, other courses you have taken, or your own personal schema; wonder about events in the story; and/or respond to the characters and their situations. After each reflection, skip two lines and write the heading "Analysis." Use your own skills in reading literature, in addition to suggestions you picked up from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, to write 1 to 2 pages of commentary. Consider Foster's questions from page 265: What does the section signify? How does it signify? To summarize, you should have a total of seven journal entries about this novel, and each entry should be 2 to 4 pages long. Two full pages is the minimum length for each entry. These entries should span the length of the novel and include the concluding chapters so that you can reflect on the book as a whole.

(3) After your last analysis of *1984*, skip to a new page and write the heading "Reading Reflection." Write two to four full pages in your journal in which you answer the following questions: What pleasure reading did you do this summer and why did you select that material? What should I know about you as a reader? Since I may

not have taught all of you before, please tell me some things I don't know about you. Why did you decide to take AP Lit?

(4) Finally, please read Genesis, Exodus, and Luke from the Bible in preparation for our unit on Biblical allusions. I will give you a brief quiz once school begins, just to keep you accountable J.

You must annotate both of the books as you read—underline, write margin notes, ask questions, etc—I will be checking and grading this.

The journal is due on the first day of class, and late work will not be accepted. (No "oops," no excuses, don't even ask.) Everything in your journal should reflect your original thoughts, questions, and connections. Do not use information from outside sources. If you do not complete this assignment, you will be asked to drop the course.