

2026 AP English Literature and Composition Summer Assignment

Mr. Chris Lux

chris.lux@asfg.edu.mx

AP English Literature and Composition is a rigorous course that requires students to read a wide variety of literature. Students should expect a high volume of reading, including note taking, discussions, and analytical writing. To start preparing for this course, you will read three books over the summer.

Generative AI and Online Sources Policy: The work you submit for this assignment and all assignments in AP English Literature and Composition should be your own work and your original ideas. The use of and presenting of information as your own from generative AI or outside resources (for example, ChatGPT and Sparknotes) will be considered academic dishonesty. This will not be tolerated—it will result in a failing grade and you will be at risk of being removed from the AP course.

1. PART ONE: Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. This book can be borrowed from the warehouse (in the basement of the Admin Building).

A. Pick 2 chapters from the book that stood out to you (chapters you found especially interesting or useful).

B. For each chapter:

-Briefly summarize the key idea (about 3–5 sentences).

-Find and describe an example from any book, movie, or show you know that connects to the idea in that chapter.

****This should be typed and ready to submit by the first day of school. You will submit it after I invite you to our Google Classroom on the first day.****

2. PART TWO: Read one book of your choice from the below list. This must be a book that you have not read before.

Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison

Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë

Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Moby Dick, Herman Melville

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
Catch-22, Joseph Heller
As I Lay Dying, William Faulkner
Native Son, Richard Wright
Othello, William Shakespeare
The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver
All the Pretty Horses, Cormac McCarthy
The Crucible, Arthur Miller
The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
East of Eden, John Steinbeck
Candide, Voltaire
The Color Purple, Alice Walker
1984, George Orwell
The Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger
Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
Slaughterhouse-Five, Kurt Vonnegut
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
To the Lighthouse, Virginia Woolf
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey
Lord of the Flies, William Golding
The Road, Cormac McCarthy
The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
Beloved, Toni Morrison
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

Then, write the following about the book you read:

A. Provide the title and author

B. Write a 300-400 word personal response addressing:

-Quick summary of the book that includes main points, characters, and setting.

-Your overall reaction to the book.

-Major ideas, themes, or conflicts you noticed.

-How it connects to other books, movies, or life experiences.

C. Select one passage or quote (4–8 lines) that you found meaningful. Include the page number, and write a short analysis (150–200 words) explaining why you chose it and how it connects to a big idea, theme, or literary element.

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3. PART THREE: Read 1 additional fiction book of your choice. The book must be one you have not read before, and you may not choose *Macbeth* or *The Great Gatsby*, since we will read those works together in class.

A. Provide the title and author

B. Write a 300-400 word personal response addressing:

-Quick summary of the book that includes main points, characters, and setting.

-Your overall reaction to the book.

-Major ideas, themes, or conflicts you noticed.

-How it connects to other books, movies, or life experiences.

C. Select one passage or quote (4–8 lines) that you found meaningful. Include the page number, and write a short analysis (150–200 words) explaining why you chose it and how it connects to a big idea, theme, or literary element.

****This should be typed and ready to submit by the first day of school. You will submit it after I invite you to our Google Classroom on the first day.****

This is 3 books total for AP Literature.