

## **Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2017**

Summer reading focuses on preparing students to be successful not only in AP Lit. class, but both *on* the exam AND in general life. Being a well-rounded, seasoned reader is imperative for this class, and summer reading is an integral part of that journey. Please understand that the suggested reading lists are just that: suggestions. These supplemental readings will NOT be tested; however, I do advise you to consider their allusive value and to see the readings (specifically the Biblical readings) as scholarly edification.

Note: In addition to completing each reading assignment, students should complete DETAILED annotations and a reading analysis guide for each novel (see instructions below). Both of these assignments will be due the first day of school.

### **Summer Reading List:**

1. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
2. *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (the only play to be read out of the Shakespeare anthology)
3. “Invictus” by William Earnest Henley
4. “Icarus” Edward Field
5. Poetry terms packet

### ***Strongly Suggested Reading:***

1. General Greek Mythology stories (see packet)
2. General Biblical stories (“Genesis” (chapters 1-4, 6-9, 22), “Exodus” (chapter 3, 14, 22), “I Samuel” (chapter 17 & 18), a Gospel (“Matthew,” “Mark,” “Luke,” or “John.”) any “Psalms” and “Proverbs,” and “Revelations” (chapter 6).

### ***Suggested Reading:***

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
2. *How to Read Novels Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

### **Students Must Also Purchase:**

<i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i> - Barnes and Noble Product Details ISBN-13: 9781435154476 Publisher: Barnes & Noble Publication date: 10/19/2015 Series: Barnes & Noble Collectible Editions Series Pages: 1280 Product dimensions:6.60(w) x 9.40(h) x 2.60(d)	<i>Joe Turner’s Come and Gone</i> by August Wilson ISBN-13: <a href="#">9780452260092</a> Publisher: Plume
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### **Reading Analysis Guide (Formerly known as “Abstract”):**

Students must complete a reading analysis guide for each **novel** or **play** that is read (not poems), for both summer reading and school year reading. The reading analysis guide should provide a TYPED guide for each piece of literature. Students should organize notes in regards to characters, theme, author, novel structure, symbolism, and other literary devices. Your analysis guide should also include elements that the reader (you) did and did not like about the book. Lastly, you are to include questions that were left unanswered. Please keep in mind that what you submit will be the first depiction of who you are as a scholar and the quality of work you produce.

### **A few tips to help you with this process:**

- DO NOT simply take information from Sparknotes. If you find yourself doing this, you should prepare yourself for a VERY difficult year in my class.
- DO NOT wait until the last minute! Create your guides as you go along. This will be especially helpful for the “questions” section of your guide. It is okay if questions were answered later in the novel. Keep them in your notes...this shows signs of active reading.
- Try to avoid doing all of the reading in one chunk of time. While it may be tempting to “get it out of the way” early in the summer, this will most likely pose a challenge for you when you are tested on the material upon your return to school. I suggest spreading the reading out, scattering myths and Biblical stories from week to week, reading *Kite Runner* in the middle of the summer, and ending with a slow, methodical, heavily-annotated reading of *Macbeth* towards the end. You will have about a week before summer reading tests occur.
- The more work you do at the time of reading, the less work you will have to do after reading. This tip applies not only to summer reading but to reading during the year as well. You **must** think of this course as a marathon, not a sprint, one where the focus is the *journey* and **not** the destination.
- Your annotations will be your saving grace when you come back to school. Summer is a time to relax and recharge, but we *must* keep your analytical skills sharp and active. Not only will your annotations be checked in for a grade, but they will serve as your lifeline during Socratic seminars and in preparation for the summer reading tests.
- This is a time to explore, practice, and prepare. Do NOT be afraid to make mistakes, and do NOT steer away from obstacles that pose challenges; this is the *only* way that you will grow as a scholar. Work on cultivating a “growth mindset” where you lean in to challenges instead of shying away from them. This “grit point,” where you are stretched and forced to grow, is where the highest form of learning will happen.

Every day you read over the summer, every day you do any prep work, and every single day you come to my class, know without a doubt that you are cared for, as an individual human being AND as an academic scholar. I respect your decision to take this class, and I respect your time, talents, passions, and devotions. *Everything* we do in this class is for your own good. When the waters get rough, and they will, please remind yourself of these truths. If you want to grow in more ways than you thought possible, you are in the right place. I believe in you.

Happy reading,  
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