



AP English Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP English Literature! We are looking forward to exploring some interesting reads along with you next year. One of the things which will benefit you on next year's AP exam is having a wide range of reading in your background along with an understanding of the common symbols and patterns that authors use to create meaning in their works. In order to prepare you for the types of writing, discussion and analysis which we will have next year, please complete the following project before returning to school. We will discuss this assignment during the first weeks of school. Please be familiar enough with the material that you are comfortable discussing and writing about it. Get ready for an awesome year!

Have a Great Summer,
The AP Literature Team

The Reading:

1. Purchase, read, and annotate **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** by **Thomas C. Foster**. As you take notes, you will want to focus on the meanings of each device as well as its origins. The better your notes are, the easier it will be to review the focus of each chapter when using it for future assignments.
2. Purchase, read, and annotate **ONE (1) of the following Choice Novels:**
 - a. *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga
 - b. *Emma* by Jane Austen
 - c. *White Noise* by Don DeLillo
 - d. *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
 - e. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
 - f. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
 - g. *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee
 - h. *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy
 - i. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
 - j. *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith
 - k. *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

Important: Students are responsible for securing a hard or digital copy of these books on their own and should bring them on the first day of class. Each book listed can be purchased (new or used) online or (new) from a local bookstore. Please see more information below about these books and ways to obtain one. All work must be YOUR OWN IDEAS. Do not search the internet for answers or work together with another student.

The Written Assignment:

Carefully read the parameters of the assignment for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and Your Choice Novel listed below.

Directions: As you read, respond to **FIVE (5) of the following questions/prompts** thoughtfully, applying the ideas to your choice novel. Some questions may not fit your chosen novel. Each response should be in

complete sentences and at minimum one page in length. This assignment should be hand-written and clearly labeled on separate notebook paper or in a single subject spiral notebook.

Introduction: How'd He Do That?

How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature? Discuss how understanding symbol or pattern has helped you appreciate your student choice novel.

Chapter 1 – Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to your student choice novel in the form used on pages 3-5.

Chapter 2 – Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion

Choose a meal from your student choice novel and apply the ideas of Chapter 2 to this literary depiction.

Chapter 3 – Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires

What are the essentials of the Vampire story? Apply this to your student choice novel.

Chapter 5 (Chapter 4 Revised 2014 ed.) – Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?

Define intertextuality. Discuss three examples that have helped you in reading your student choice novel.

Chapter 6 (Chapter 5 Revised 2014 ed.) – When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...

Discuss how your student choice novel alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 8 (Chapter 7 Revised 2014 ed.) – Hanseldee and Greteldum

Think of how your student choice novel reflects a fairy tale. Discuss the parallels. Does it create irony or deepen appreciation?

Chapter 10 (Chapter 9 Revised 2014 ed.) – It's More Than Just Rain or Snow

Discuss the importance of weather in your student choice novel, not in terms of plot.

Chapter 10 Revised 2014 ed. — Never Stand Next to the Hero

What is the "surrogacy phenomenon" and what purpose does it serve in a narrative? Give an example from your student choice novel and explain how it fits the surrogacy phenomenon.

Chapter 11 – ...More Than It's Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence

Present examples of the two kinds of violence found in your student choice novel. Show how the effects are different.

Chapter 14 – Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too

Apply the criteria on page 126 to a major character in your student choice novel. Try to choose a character that will have many matches.

Chapter 15 – Flights of Fancy

Explain how flight signifies escape or freedom in your student choice novel. Explain in detail.

Chapter 18 – If She Comes Up, It's Baptism

Think of a "baptism scene" from your student choice novel. How was the character different after the experience? Discuss.

Chapter 19 – Geography Matters...

Discuss at least four different aspects of your student choice novel that Foster would classify under "geography."

Chapter 21 – Marked for Greatness

Select a character with a physical imperfection from your student choice novel and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 23 – It's Never Just Heart Disease... & Chapter 24 – ...And Rarely Just Illness (Combined in Chapter 23 Revised 2014 ed.)

Select a character who dies of disease in your student choice novel. Consider how these deaths reflect the "principles governing the use of disease in literature" (222-224). Discuss the effectiveness of the death as related to plot, theme, or symbolism.

Chapter 25 (Chapter 24 Revised 2014 ed.) – Don't Read with Your Eyes

After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from your student choice novel. Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the time when it was published with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not be made in this century.

Chapter 25 (Revised 2014 ed.)— It's My Symbol and I'll Cry If I Want To

What are some strategies for dealing with non-standard or "private" symbols in texts? Give an example of odd or uncommon symbolism from your student choice novel. How did you figure out the meaning of the text and the symbolism?

Chapter 26 – Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Explain the multi-vocal nature of the irony in your student choice novel.

Summaries of Choice Novels
(obtained from Amazon and Barnes & Noble)

The stunning Booker Prize–winning novel from the author of *Amnesty* and *Selection Day* that critics have likened to Richard Wright's *Native Son*, *The White Tiger* follows a darkly comic Bangalore driver through the poverty and corruption of modern India's caste society. The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur. On the occasion of the president of China's impending trip to Bangalore, Balram writes a letter to him describing his transformation and his experience as driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family, which he thinks exemplifies the contradictions and complications of Indian society. Recalling *The Death of Vishnu* and *Bangkok 8* in ambition, scope, *The White Tiger* is narrative genius with a mischief and personality all its own. Amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing, and utterly contemporary, this novel is an international publishing sensation—and a startling, provocative debut.

Emma by Jane Austen

When her former governess finds happiness as the bride of a local widower, the brilliant and beautiful Emma Woodhouse — one of Jane Austen's immortal creations — flatters herself that she alone has secured the marriage and that she possesses a special talent for bringing lovers together. The young heiress next busies herself with finding a suitable husband for her friend and protégé, Harriet Smith, setting off an entertaining sequence of comic mishaps and misunderstanding in this sparkling comedy of English-village romance. Beneath its considerable wit, the novel is also the story of a young woman's progress toward self-understanding. *Emma* abounds in the droll character sketches at which Jane Austen excelled. In addition to the well-intentional heroine and her hypochondriacal father, the village of Highbury during the Regency period is populated by an amusing circle of friends and family — kindhearted but tedious Miss Bates, a chatterbox spinster; ambitious Mr. Elton, a social-climbing parson; Frank Churchill, an enigmatic Romeo; Mr. Knightley, Emma's brother-in-law and the voice of her better nature; and a cluster of other finely drawn, unforgettable personalities. The author's skill at depicting the follies of human nature in a manner both realistic and affectionate elevates this tale of provincial matchmaking to the heights of scintillating satire.

White Noise by Don DeLillo

Winner of the National Book Award - Jack Gladney teaches Hitler studies at a liberal arts college in Middle America where his colleagues include New York expatriates who want to immerse themselves in "American magic and dread." Jack and his fourth wife, Babette, bound by their love, fear of death, and four ultramodern offspring, navigate the usual rocky passages of family life to the background babble of brand-name consumerism. Then a lethal black chemical cloud floats over their lives, an "airborne toxic event" unleashed by an industrial accident. The menacing cloud is a more urgent and visible version of the "white noise" engulfing the Gladney family—radio transmissions, sirens, microwaves, ultrasonic appliances, and TV murmurings—pulsing with life, yet heralding the danger of death.

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer and social commentator, who is regarded as the finest novelist of the Victorian-era. He was an exceptional creator of character, perhaps second only to Shakespeare. Through his novels, he fiercely criticized the poverty and social stratification of Victorian society. He had to leave school to work ten-hour days in a factory when his father was incarcerated in a debtor's prison. In spite of his lack of formal education, he went on to become a literary juggernaut and achieved world-wide fame within his lifetime. *Oliver Twist*, which was serialized from 1837 to 1839 and published as a book in 1838, is Charles Dickens' second novel. The novel chronicles the journey of Oliver Twist, a child born in a workhouse, his subsequent sale as an apprentice to an undertaker, and his escape to London to join a gang of child pickpockets. It used an entirely new form of storytelling, a scathing social commentary in the form of fiction, utilizing an unforgettable cast of curious characters, supported by an omnipresent undercurrent of lurking mystery and adventure. Foremost among early social novels, in it Dickens combines his merciless wit with blatant realism to shed light on the wretched condition of thousands of innocent orphans, like Oliver, to whom the only options seem to be a life of criminal association, the prison or premature death. A vivid and stark painting of Victorian London's dark and impoverished underworld, it was Dickens' first novel that illustrated his belief that impoverishment is the root of criminal motives.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize - A New York Times Book Review Top Ten Book - A National Book Award Finalist - From Anthony Doerr, the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning author of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the

devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

New York Times Bestseller - Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the tangled ties between generations. *The Namesake* is a fine-tuned, intimate, and deeply felt novel of identity from "a writer of uncommon elegance and poise." (The New York Times) Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

A New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and National Book Award finalist - In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant—and that her lover is married—she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations. Richly told and profoundly moving, *Pachinko* is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters—strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis—survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

National Book Award Winner - National Bestseller - The first volume in the Border Trilogy, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Road*. *All the Pretty Horses* is the tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where dreams are paid for in blood.

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Winner of the Man Booker Prize - New York Times Bestseller - An affluent Indian family is forever changed by one fateful day in 1969, from the author of *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. Compared favorably to the works of Faulkner and Dickens, Arundhati Roy's modern classic is equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing "big things [that] lurk unsaid" in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. Lush, lyrical, and unnerving, *The God of Small Things* is an award-winning landmark that started for its author an esteemed career of fiction and political commentary that continues unabated.

White Teeth by Zadie Smith

National Bestseller - Set against London's racial and cultural tapestry, venturing across the former empire and into the past as it barrels toward the future, *White Teeth* revels in the ecstatic hodgepodge of modern life, flirting with disaster, confounding expectations, and embracing the comedy of daily existence. Zadie Smith's dazzling debut caught critics grasping for comparisons and deciding on everyone from Charles Dickens to Salman Rushdie to John Irving and Martin Amis. But the truth is that Zadie Smith's voice is remarkably, fluently, and altogether wonderfully her own. At the center of this invigorating novel are two unlikely friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal. Hapless veterans of World War II, Archie and Samad and their families become agents of England's irrevocable transformation. A second marriage to Clara Bowden, a beautiful, albeit tooth-challenged, Jamaican half his age, quite literally gives Archie a second lease on life, and produces Irie, a knowing child whose personality doesn't quite match her name




(Jamaican for “no problem”). Samad’s late-in-life arranged marriage (he had to wait for his bride to be born), produces twin sons whose separate paths confound Iqbal’s every effort to direct them, and a renewed, if selective, submission to his Islamic faith.

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, this #1 New York Times bestseller chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood— where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. The Underground Railroad is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share.

Additional Information on How to Get Books

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<p><u>Sora App</u> Free access to a variety of e-books and audiobooks</p> 	<p><u>Montgomery County Public Library</u> E-Books & Audiobooks</p> 
<p><u>Destiny Discover</u> Check out ebooks and audiobooks from your campus library using the SSO.</p>	<p><u>Open Library</u> Create a free account</p> 

Resources for Accessing Books

There are many ways to access books online for free. See a list below for some available resources to help you gain access to books:

Apps found in the CISD SSO Portal:

- **Sora**
 - Free access to a variety of e-books and audiobooks
- **Destiny Discover**
 - Check out e-books and audiobooks from our campus library

Other websites with free resources:

- **Montgomery County Public Library**
 - E-Books & Audiobooks: <https://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/elibrary>
 - Get a Digital Library Card: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/registration.html>
- **Open Library**
 - Create a free account: <https://openlibrary.org/account/create>
 - Popular Titles: <https://bit.ly/2XBEwyP>
- **Project Gutenberg**
 - Free E-Books: http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
 - Top 100 Most Popular: <http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/scores/top>
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