

# AP Literature and Composition: AP English 12

## Summer Reading Assignments

*No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.*

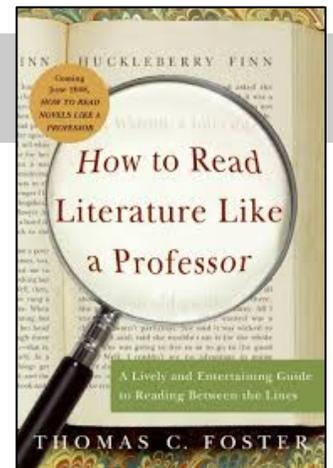
1. **Read** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Complete the reading assignment listed below the book description.
2. **Choose one book of choice to read.** *See the choices on the back.* As you read, complete the annotation assignment listed below the choices.
3. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions and to write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school.
4. **Write your college essay.** See the instructions on the attached sheet.

### Questions?

AP English 12 Summer Reading Contact:  
Mr. Connolly (patrick.connolly@jp2hs.org)

## *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface. In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. (from *Amazon*)



**Assignment for the summer:** Purchase a new copy of this book (already annotated copies are not allowed) and read and annotate it *before* you read your choice book (listed on other side). Make sure you read the Introduction. But ... do not read the whole book!

Foster references many works as illustrations of various concepts. If you are unfamiliar with any of the works he cites (and you will be, as even I am), skip them if you prefer. Zero-in on big concepts here for your annotating, and simply enjoy the various details and explanations. And under no circumstances should you read beyond page 261 – do not even peek!

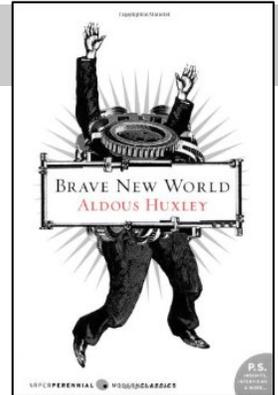
**When school begins:** An annotation grade will be assessed the first day of class. You also will be assigned to make a presentation about one or more chapters. Specifics will be provided when school begins.

**Pick one** of these fictional selections, and complete the reading and annotating assignment at the bottom of this page.

All book descriptions below are from Amazon.

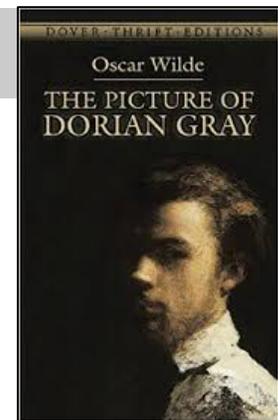
### *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*Brave New World*: Aldous Huxley is rightly considered a prophetic genius and one of the most important literary and philosophical voices of the 20th Century, and *Brave New World* is his masterpiece. From the author of *The Doors of Perception*, *Island*, and countless other works of fiction, non-fiction, philosophy, and poetry, comes this powerful work of speculative fiction that has enthralled and terrified readers for generations. *Brave New World* remains absolutely relevant to this day as both a cautionary dystopian tale in the vein of the George Orwell classic *1984*, and as thought-provoking, thoroughly satisfying entertainment.



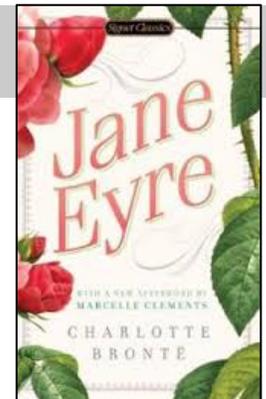
### *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

In this celebrated work, his only novel, Wilde forged a devastating portrait of the effects of evil and debauchery on a young aesthete in late-19th-century England. Combining elements of the Gothic horror novel and decadent French fiction, the book centers on a striking premise: As Dorian Gray sinks into a life of crime and gross sensuality, his body retains perfect youth and vigor while his recently painted portrait grows day by day into a hideous record of evil, which he must keep hidden from the world. For over a century, this mesmerizing tale of horror and suspense has enjoyed wide popularity. It ranks as one of Wilde's most important creations and among the classic achievements of its kind.



### *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

*Jane Eyre* is the story of a small, plain-faced, intelligent, and passionate English orphan. Jane is abused by her aunt and cousin and then attends a harsh charity school. Through it all she remains strong and determinedly refuses to allow a cruel world to crush her independence or her strength of will. A masterful story of a woman's quest for freedom and love, *Jane Eyre* is partly autobiographical, and Charlotte Brontë filled it with social criticism and sinister Gothic elements. A must read for anyone wishing to celebrate the indomitable strength of will.



**Assignment for the summer:** Read and annotate your chosen text (make sure you have a new copy of the required edition; previously annotated texts are not allowed). In addition, annotate for the following theme topics in each book; alternatively, you may want to make note of them at the end of each chapter.

- *Brave New World*: science and technology; happiness and truth; freedom and confinement; society and class; sex, gender, and identity
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: good vs. evil; youth and beauty; innocence and influence; man vs. society; man vs. self
- *Jane Eyre*: society and class; home and family; love and passion; independence and gender relations; God and religion

**When school begins:** An annotation grade will be assessed the first day of class. There also will be a content quiz, discussion, and a written reflection assigned.

## Rising Senior Summer Assignment – College Essay

Senior teachers and college counselors would like to help you get started on your college essay, which can be a very time consuming project during your senior year. This part of the summer assignment requires the following for a completion grade:

- Pick one prompt below on which to write your essay.
- Type what you consider to be a final draft of a college essay.
  - Type the prompt at the top of the page.
  - Type in 12-point font, double-spaced.
  - Include a **Word Count** at the bottom of the page. (Highlight only the essay portion to get an accurate word count. The limit is 500 words.)
- Bring the essay to class on the first day of school.

You will receive a completion grade for meeting those criteria. Both your English teacher and your college counselor will help you revise the essay so that it introduces you to college admissions teams in the most effective way.

### from the Common Application

### Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.