

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. Follow the reading assignment listed below.
2. **Read** *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Read the assignment description before you begin the novel.
3. **Choose one book of choice to read.** See the instructions and choices below.
4. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions, take a reading comprehension test, and to write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school.

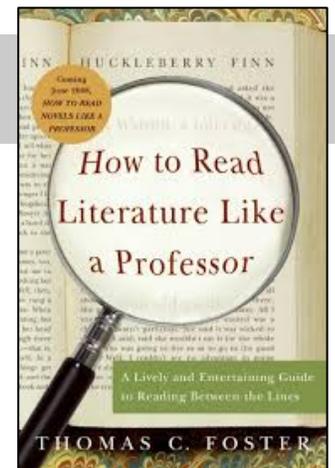
A word about annotating: We will discuss this more when school begins, but I'm simply looking for obvious signs of active reading that indicate engagement and attention to the text. This can take many forms and, most likely, not all one approach (underlining/highlighting, notes, questions, comments, end of chapter notes, theme topic numbering or colors or tabs, etc.).

Questions?

AP English 12 Summer Reading Contact:
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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*)



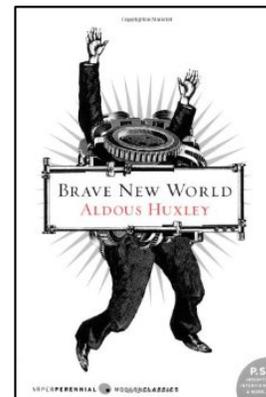
Assignment for the summer: Purchase a new copy of this book (already annotated copies are not allowed) and read and annotate it *before* you read your two other books. Make sure you read the Introduction. But ... do not read the whole book!

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.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order -- all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls. ... *Brave New World* has enthralled and terrified millions of readers. The novel retains its urgent relevance to this day as both a warning to be heeded as we head into tomorrow and as a thought-provoking, satisfying work of literature. (from Amazon)



Assignment for the summer: Read a fresh hard copy of *Brave New World* (previously annotated texts and downloaded versions are not allowed). Annotate for the following theme topics: science and technology; happiness and truth; freedom and isolation; society and class; sex and substances.

As a way of guiding you through the text, here is a suggested breakdown of reading chunks and important developments or guides to reading the novel:

- Ch. 1: Nature. An explanation of how the society is *structured*.
- Ch. 1: Nurture. An explanation of how the society *conditions its citizens*.
- Ch. 3: Continues with Nurture a bit and then evolves into a series of 4 separate story lines. This can be confusing if you let it be. Strong suggestion: Skim each paragraph break and quickly note which story line it is. Then go back and read each story line separately. The 4 story lines to mark: Mustapha Mond, Bernard, Lenina, Hypnopaedia. (Begin with the Mond storyline at “His fordship....”.)
- Ch. 4-6: Bernard as outcast, understanding Lenina, meeting Helmholtz
- Ch. 7-9: Savage Reservation trip, meeting John and Linda, understanding Bernard’s plans
- Ch. 10-15: Return to the World State. John, Linda, Bernard, Lenina all react/adjust.
- Ch. 16-17: the central philosophical argument of the novel.
- Ch. 18: ending. Read closely! (Confused on points? Don’t worry – we’ll discuss.)

When school begins: There will be an annotation grade and content quiz the first day of class. We will then follow-up and explore the novel together, culminating in a writing assignment.

A Novel of Your Choice

Finally, I want you to read a novel for pleasure that you have not read before. (Idea: Ask a friend or relative to read it too and discuss as you go along or after you finish.) (Extra idea: Read more than one!) I will not be checking annotations but you must bring your own hard copy of the book to the first day of class as there will be a short writing assignment. (No previously annotated or downloaded copies are allowed.)

You may select any book from the following list of 20. I've read all of these books, and my only advice to you is to spend a few minutes selecting one that sounds "interesting" to you, regardless of its length.

All the Light We Cannot See, All Quiet on the Western Front, A Separate Peace, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, The Bridge of San Luis Rey, The Catcher in the Rye, Dracula, Going After Cacciato, Jane Eyre, Pachinko, The Picture of Dorian Gray, The Poisonwood Bible, Remains of the Day, Wuthering Heights, Year of Wonders, 1984, and these four Jane Austen novels: Emma, Persuasion, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility.

