

12th Grade AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading List

I congratulate you on accepting the challenge of Advanced Placement English. The senior year will introduce you to world literature. Through the study of various literary forms, we will examine the changes in both writing and culture. As part of this program, I ask you to read two books over the summer. Both of these books can be purchased at any of our local bookstores or borrowed from the libraries. In August, you can check my website (<http://www.lcmrschools.com/HS/belasco/homework.htm>) for an essay assignment to be emailed to me or dropped off in school before August 24th. Furthermore, I have established message boards for each of the summer readings linked from the school website. As you progress through the books, please post your comments (these can be significant quotes with your reactions, reflections on writing styles, or questions you may have.) I would like your response to *How to Read Literature like a Professor* posted no later than July 15th. You will post on the other books at least four times before August 15th (no more than two postings per week.) The postings reflect an AP student's intellect and drive so they should clearly be longer than one or two paragraphs. I will be checking twice a week and will answer questions and leave my comments. Upon your return to class in September, I will be assigning a separate essay of your reading to make sure that it was completed, as well as, to assess your initial writing skills. Finally, at the start of the year you will be assigned groups in order to plan a lesson and teach a chapter from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. If you are looking for any other books to read and aim for books that have shown up on the AP Literature and Composition test, check my website (belasco.endofinternet.net) for a list of books appearing on the AP test as well as our fall syllabus – feel free to read ahead.. Thank you and have a wonderful summer. If you have any additional questions regarding the selections, email me at belascotj@lcmrschools.com or belasco@alumni.rutgers.edu.

Mr. Belasco

The course will base much of its instruction on this book – take notes. Read this book before reading your other novels

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor : A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. 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 -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

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.

About the Author

Tom Foster is Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint, where he teaches classes in contemporary fiction, drama and poetry as well as creative writing and composition. He has written several books on twentieth-century British and Irish literature and poetry and lives in East Lansing, Michigan.

Please choose one book from the following list

1. [*The Things They Carried*](#) by Tim O'Brien (*Mature Subject Matter*)
2. [*Kafka on the Shore*](#) by Haruki Murakami
3. [*Their Eyes Were Watching God*](#) by Zora Neale Hurston
4. [*Love Medicine*](#) by Louise Erdrich
5. [*Invisible Man*](#) by Ralph Ellison (*Mature Subject Matter*)
6. [*The Handmaid's Tale*](#) by Margaret Atwood (*Mature Subject Matter*)
7. [*Atonement*](#) by Ian McEwan
8. [*All the Pretty Horses*](#) by Cormac McCarthy
9. [*The Namesake*](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri
10. [*To the Lighthouse*](#) by Virginia Woolf

Descriptions for all of these books are available at

www.amazon.com

