

Centennial High School

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Summer Reading, 2009

REQUIRED

Title	Genre	Activity	Assessment
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> , Barbara Kingsolver	Novel	Personal & analytical responses (For more details, see the reverse)	Responses due Aug. 12; Formal Assessment week of Aug. 12
<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> ,* Tom Stoppard	Drama	Adapted GWRJ; *If you have not studied <i>Hamlet</i> , you will need to read and complete a GWRJ for that text as well.	Formal Assessment week of Aug. 12
Self-selected volume of poetry	Poetry	Annotate the volume thoroughly. (For more details, see the reverse)	Annotations, project week of Aug. 19
<i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> , Thomas C. Foster (selected chapters)	Non-fiction	Read and respond to the introduction and chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19 (For more details, see the reverse)	Responses due Aug. 12

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

If you find yourself missing classical or biblical allusions, these would be great texts to bolster your familiarity. We will be addressing this material in various ways throughout the first semester.

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes, Edith Hamilton

Bible, King James version or New Revised Standard version (e-texts available online)

(The KJ is classic; it sounds like Shakespeare. The NRSV is most widely used for "scholarly" pursuits.

Obviously, you will probably want to pick and choose which parts to read. Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, and the Gospel of Luke would be a solid start.)

SUGGESTED

You have probably studied many of the texts below. Your AP Lit instructors will build on this foundation throughout the year. While you will not be formally assessed on these titles, it will certainly enhance your preparation for the AP exam if you re-familiarize yourself with these works.

Foundations of

Western Literature

The Odyssey, Homer
Antigone, Sophocles
Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare
Macbeth, Shakespeare
Hamlet, Shakespeare
The Tempest, Shakespeare
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare

Modern British/World Tradition

1984, Orwell
Animal Farm, Orwell
Lord of the Flies, Golding
Brave New World, Huxley
Cry the Beloved Country, Paton

American Tradition

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Douglass
The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Twain

The Awakening, Chopin

The Jungle, Sinclair
The Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald
Of Mice and Men, Steinbeck
Glass Menagerie, Williams
The Catcher in the Rye, Salinger
The Crucible, Miller
Death of a Salesman, Miller
The Old Man and the Sea, Hemingway
The Bell Jar, Plath
Anthem, Rand
Ellen Foster, Gibbons

If you have any questions regarding the texts or the assignments, please email Ms. McCord at the following email address. Please allow as much time as possible as I may not check email daily.

Ms. Larken McCord

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Poetry Assignment

Each student should read a volume of poetry by the poet of his or her choice. You need to annotate the poems thoroughly. You will be evaluated on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your annotations; in addition, you will refer to your volume of poetry during a major project at the beginning of first semester.

What poet should I choose?

Please select a poet whose work demonstrates the literary merit appropriate for AP Lit (i.e., no Shel Silverstein!) If you are already familiar with the work of a poet and want to read more of his or her work, that's fine. You may also branch out and try someone new. You may read old school folks (Shakespeare, John Donne) or contemporary (Billy Collins, Mary Oliver). Please feel free to email the instructors or ask a former AP student for recommendations.

How long is a "volume" of poetry?

Most volumes are around 100 pages; many are even smaller. You do not need to read the "collected works" of your poet.

Can I read an anthology?

For this assignment, part of the purpose is discerning an author's voice and development. For that reason, you need to have a variety of poems from the same person and an anthology won't provide that.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor Assignment

We will be referring to this book and reading it throughout the first semester. While you are certainly allowed to read the entire book, you are only responsible for the intro and the assigned chapters.

As you read, please annotate, making notes and comments that will guide our conversations in class. In addition, please respond to the following prompts for each chapter. Your responses should be typed, adhering to MLA format; each response should be several paragraphs, not pages, long. These assignments are to develop your skills of literary analysis and reflection, as well as to help you apply Foster's ideas to your own reading. **(Your responses to chapters 7, 10, 18 and 19 are also your assignment for *The Poisonwood Bible*.)**

Intro	(no response necessary; annotations only!)
Ch. 5	Explain "intertextuality" in your own words, citing examples from your own history as a reader.
Ch. 6	How does Stoppard's extended allusion to <i>Hamlet</i> in <i>R & G</i> enhance the themes of his play?
Ch. 7	Discuss three examples of Biblical allusions in <i>PB</i> . It may be helpful to read "Genesis" and "Revelation," the first and last books of the Bible, respectively.
Ch. 8	Using your own reading experience or new research, identify a contemporary poem that alludes to a fairy tale. Explain the significance of the allusion. Does it create irony, expand the theme, deepen your appreciation, etc.?
Ch. 9	Using your own reading experience or new research, identify a contemporary poem that alludes to a character, place or event from classical mythology. Explain the significance of the allusion. Does it create irony, expand the theme, deepen your appreciation, etc.?
Ch. 10	Discuss the literal and symbolic significance of weather in <i>PB</i> . Use apt, specific references.
Ch. 18	Discuss the various representations of baptism in <i>PB</i> . Use apt and specific references.
Ch. 19	Discuss the thematic significance of geography in <i>PB</i> . Use apt and specific references.