

Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition SUMMER READING

**WHAT? I HAVE TO THINK DURING THE SUMMER?!
YES...YES, YOU DO.**

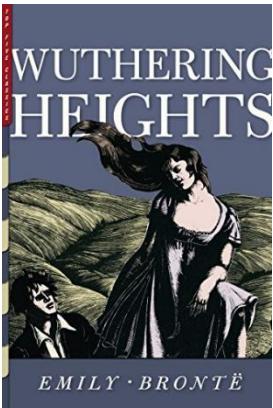
The main purposes of summer reading are to help you to improve your vocabulary, to strengthen your reading skills, and to make you better citizens of the earth. There's lots of official research by official university types to support this. In fact, students who read lots of good stuff do better on those highly relevant tests like the SAT and the ACT. Seriously, the more you read, the better prepared you are for the rigorous demands of ALL your Advanced Placement courses; therefore, it is required that you complete the following readings.

Remember Ms. Waters' AP Motto, something you might want to go ahead and tattoo in a highly visibly place:
THAT WHICH DOESN'T KILL US MAKES US STRONGER.

~ Shauna Rynn Waters

Section I – Required Novel – DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

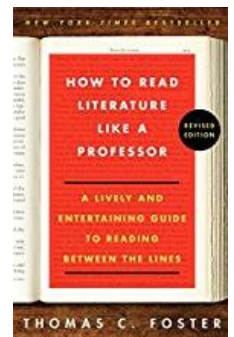
All students must complete the following:



Feedback from previous AP Exam scores shows that nationwide, students are weakest in pre-20th century literature because of the challenging vocabulary and syntax. **Reading literature from earlier centuries is often a “test of endurance.” To be successful in AP Lit and beyond, you must endure!** Read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë and write a personal response journal in which you discuss a theme from the work and relate that theme to your own life. A THEME is a major issue such as life, death, love, loss, etc., that every human may have to deal with at some point, a universal issue in the novel and what the author seems to be saying about that thing through the characters/action. Begin the journal with a paragraph that briefly summarizes the plot and includes the title, the author's name, and date the novel was first published. This summary portion should take **NO MORE THAN ONE PARAGRAPH**. THE MAIN FOCUS IS TO BE YOUR PERSONAL FOCUS ON THE THEME. RESPONSES FAILING TO MAINTAIN THIS FOCUS LOSE HALF CREDIT. This personal response is to be 450-550 words, MLA formatted, typed, double-spaced.

Section II – How to Read Literature Like a Professor – DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

After reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (Revised Edition) by Thomas C. Foster, choose one chapter/concept that you found particularly interesting and answer the following questions about it in a 400-500 word, double-space typed response. Yes, you may simply type the question and then your response underneath. It does not have to be a formal essay.



- 1) The reason I chose this chapter was....
- 2) One thing I didn't know before I read this chapter was.....
- 3) A work I've read that I see this concept applied in is....
- 4) The thing I think everybody should remember about this chapter is...
- 5) One way I think reading this book will help me is....
- 6) One thing I'm not quite sure I believe about what Foster says is...

You will have a formal assessment on this book AND a project will also be based on chapter drawn randomly. There is no guarantee that the chapter you pull will be the chapter you do your journal on. PLEASE BE PREPARED.

Section III – College Application Essay

MAIL this essay and the prompt you use to write it to Shauna Rynn Waters, West Lauderdale High School, 9916 W Lauderdale Road, Collinsville, MS 39325 so that I will receive it no later than July 31. It must be sent by US Postal Service. The postmark must be prior to July 31. Letters hand-delivered or coming any other way than US Mail will lose half-credit. Put a stamp on it and drop it in a mailbox.

The personal statement essay is a very important part of your college application. It is the ONE PLACE where you get to share who you really are with the admissions committee. Go online and get a REAL college or scholarship application essay topic from a school to which you are interested in applying and write a well-developed essay that is typed, 12-font, 1-inch margins, double spaced. The length of the essay should be about 250 words, but follow the guidelines your school sets forth. If you cannot find a topic, write for one of the following generic topics taken from real applications:

- What is your favorite word, and why? (University of Virginia)
- What is the best advice you ever received? Why? And did you follow it? (University of Pennsylvania)
- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you. (The Common Application)

DO NOT fill this essay with trite cliché and meaningless drivel. Make sure you shine. Please be aware that what you write WILL be shared with other classmates in an activity opening the year as we learn more about writing good application essays.

ESSAYS RECEIVED AFTER THE JULY 31 DEADLINE WILL LOSE HALF CREDIT.

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All books mentioned here should be available for you at Books-A-Million. I encourage you to find them wherever you can. E-editions are fine, and free e-text is available for both. Contact me if you can't find them with a Google search. Hand-me-downs are fabulous. Amazon.com usually has a ton of very cheap used copies of everything we will read in this course. Please find your books economically. If cost is an issue, please let me or your counselor know as soon as possible.

Please get your books as soon as possible to ensure that your assignments are all ready at the appropriate time. "I couldn't get a copy of that book" is not ever an accepted excuse for not having your work in this course.

Remember that alternative sources for books include alibris.com, half.com, amazon.com, family members who might have a copy you can borrow, and previous AP students who might be willing to part with one of their precious novels. There is no "right" edition of these books, so get whichever one is easiest for you.

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact me via email at swaters@lauderdale.k12.ms.us.
Try to have your emergencies early. ☺



**ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER READING!!!!**