

2023-2024 AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Assigned Text: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

The Life You Save May Be Your Own by Flannery O'Connor

**These texts are aligned with the AP Literature & Composition Course

**Please see the link below for College Board objectives and standards for this course

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-literature-and-composition>

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

1. Each student must **acquire and read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**. The text will help introduce the student to the skills and ideas necessary to be successful in the AP Literature course. Being able to “unlock” the “hidden meaning” in fictional works for poetry and prose is an essential skill that allows students to perform the tasks required on the AP Lit exam. You may be able to get this book from one of your friends who just graduated!
 - [Click this for a link to the text on Amazon.](#)
2. The assignment for this text is to **create a “Top Ten” List**—what are the ten most important things you learned from this text? These must be your own thoughts, not just a list of Foster’s rules.
 - Each of the ten ideas should be **expressed in the student’s own words**. There should be a page number as reference for their rule/idea. Identify concept—write a paragraph explaining why you chose this particular concept. What about it was interesting to you? How will this be helpful for this course.

Flannery O’Connor’s short story, *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*

**Link for story: <http://jhampton.pbworks.com/f/The+Life+You+Save.pdf>

1. Read and mark this text. Remember that marking a text means highlighting/underlining and identifying the literary elements that you see. You should also make notes on characters, plot, setting, conflict, symbols, etc. Be prepared for a reading quiz the first week of school!
2. Complete three Analysis Journal entries on *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*. On the back of this sheet, you will find specific details and an example.
3. In a short response, explain how your reading of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helped you with your analysis of this short story.

****This assignment is for a grade and will be due the first week of school. You will receive turnitin info on the first day of school. If you have any questions over the summer, you may email Ms. Bernstein at sarvisp@duvalschools.org. This is a wonderful and amazing course! This will prepare you greatly for college as well!

Complete three (3) Analysis Journal entries. Please note: each Analysis section must focus on a DIFFERENT literary device (so, for example, you can't have two on imagery). In the table below, please see an explanation of what to include and an example from "Paradox and Dream" by John Steinbeck—please note that you may not use this same quote/device combination.

Make sure that this is a correctly formatted quote from the text.	This where you IDENTIFY the device or element in the quote. Each must be a different device! You should EXPLAIN THE EFFECT of the device you're discussing.	This is where you take the previous analysis (the EFFECT of the device) and connect it to the specific PURPOSE. Why is the author using this device/element? Link to meaning of the work as a whole--theme.
<p>"Fortunes are spent getting cats out of trees and dogs out of sewer pipes; but a girl screaming for help in the street draws only slammed doors, closed windows, and silence."</p>	<p>Steinbeck uses antithesis in this quote when he contrasts the care toward human beings. He states that Americans have care for "cats" in trees and "dogs" in sewer pipes; and will spend "fortunes" on rescuing these animals. He then contrasts that care and concern with what happens to an actual person ("a girl screaming in the street")—Steinbeck opposes the help Americans offer to animals with the way he says they treat other humans when he says they would offer this girl only "slammed doors, closed windows, silence."</p>	<p>Steinbeck's antithesis illustrates to the reader the disparity between how we treat animals and how we treat people in need. The contrast that he draws reveals to Americans that our priorities are not in order, and by pointing out our willingness to help animals and our refusal to help one another, he is hoping to create a sense of guilt and shame in his American audience, which in turn helps him achieve his purpose of getting Americans to recognize and rectify these problems he's identified in the way they live.</p>