

AP Literature & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

College Board's AP Reading Explanation:

Reading in an AP course is both wide and deep. In this course, students read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students reflect on the social and historical values it reflects. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context provides a foundation for interpretation.

Assigned Texts:

How to Read Literature like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster (2014)

Sula, Toni Morrison (1973)

Siddhartha, Hermann Hesse (1922)

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien (1990)

Summer Reading Process

1. Read each of the four works for this course. You will need your own copy of each book so that you can highlight and annotate as you read. "*How to Read Literature like a Professor*" is a guidebook that will support your understanding of an author's use of literary devices and will enhance your ability to interpret a work's literary artistry and use of language. PLEASE NOTE: **A separate in-class assessment on this critical reading guide ["*How to Read Literature like a Professor*"] will be administered in September, so it is essential that you read and annotate this text carefully.**

2. Reflect on the texts you've read for a couple of days in order to create a list of thematic connections between each piece.

3. **Reading Journal Assignment:** Please consider the **Journal Prompt** below and **craft 3 well-developed Reading Journal Responses** based on *Sula*, *Siddhartha*, & *The Things They Carried*. **Each journal response is 1 detailed page per novel for a total of 3 fluent pages.**

Format: single spaced, times new roman, 12 point font. Please be aware that these journal responses will frame your understanding of each work and provide the foundation for a formal essay writing assignment in September.

Journal Prompt: Literary critic Roland Barthes has said, "*Literature is the question minus the answer.*" Therefore, it is the task of the reader to engage in a rigorous search for meaning. Using each of the three texts (along with '*How to Read Literature Like A Professor*' as your guide), **analyze a central question raised by these works and the extent to which they offer any answers.** What does each text say about life or the human experience as we know it? What answers might the books contain? Explain how the author's treatment of this central question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. **Therefore, it is your task to craft an essential question that highlights the thematic meaning of each work.** Please note that the goal of this assignment is for you to thoughtfully read each literary text and then **craft an essential question which you will answer using direct quotes from the text. You are allowed to use the first person point of view, but be sure to include specific examples and key quotes in your responses as well.** **DUE DATE: September 7th, 2018.**

