

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
2016-2017

Task: You are to read and annotate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition* (Thomas C. Foster), *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (Edwidge Danticat) and *Invisible Man* (Ralph Ellison). Complete both of the assignments below. Follow the guidelines provided.

Assignment 1: Read and complete the following assignment based on *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines, Revised Edition* (Thomas C. Foster). For each chapter summarize 2-3 key points and analyze those points in relation to a work you have read. Choose works that have studied in your high school English classes or that are at least at high school reading level. You must demonstrate variety; use multiple sources for your examples. Below is a sample as to how to format your response for Chapter 1. **This assignment will be due on the first day of class and must be typed and submitted as a hardcopy in class. Late work will not be accepted. You have all summer to complete the assignment. Plan accordingly.**

Sample Entry

Chapter 1: Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)

Key Points:

- ❖ First key point from the chapter
- ❖ Second key point from the chapter
- ❖ Third key point from the chapter

Analysis:

In *The Kite Runner*, Amir's quest is to return to this past to set right the wrong he did as a young child. His reason for returning to Afghanistan is to rescue Hassan's son, Sohrab, who has been sold as a child prostitute to Amir and Hassan's childhood enemy. Amir faces many challenges, including restrictions imposed by the Taliban, and the physical and mental challenge of confronting Assef. Ultimately, having completed his journey, Amir gains valuable knowledge about himself and his relationship to his own past as well as the possibilities of the future.

*Note: The sample provided incorporates the theme of Foster's first chapter, provides specific reference to the text, and connects the purpose of the quest as it is incorporated in the book. This is the connection that I am looking for you to recognize. Find this, avoid plot summary, and you are good to go.

Assignment 2: Read and annotate the Danticat and Ellison texts assigned. Below are the guidelines for annotating. **You must bring your annotated texts to class during the first week of class and you will be assessed on these texts using an AP exam style prompt.**

Annotating Text

What should you annotate? Here is a list of things you should be annotating your text for as you read. Highlighting and underlining alone do not make for annotations. Your annotations must demonstrate your engagement with the text and must include comments. Use the margins of the book, the blank pages, and Post-It Notes.

- ✓ Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- ✓ Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ✓ Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- ✓ Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ✓ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ✓ Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- ✓ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ✓ Note if you experience an epiphany.
- ✓ Write a bulleted synopsis of each chapter either on the first or last page of the chapter.
- ✓ Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.
- ✓ Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can:
 - ❖ effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - ❖ point of view / effect
 - ❖ repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
 - ❖ narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
 - ❖ irony
 - ❖ contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
 - ❖ allusions
 - ❖ any other figure of speech or literary device
 - ❖ reliability of narrator
 - ❖ motifs or cluster ideas
 - ❖ tone / mood
 - ❖ imagery
 - ❖ themes
 - ❖ setting / historical period
 - ❖ symbols

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway. Approach the works with an open mind. Let them inspire you and stretch your imagination.