

11AP Literature and Composition

Summer Assignments

Mrs. Schaefer & Ms. Nolan

Welcome to Advanced Placement English! This course is meant to be intensive and should only be taken by students who enjoy reading, thinking about what they read, and writing about what they read. To help you prepare for the rigorous and stimulating sessions coming up in the fall, we've prepared the following well-balanced assignments. We encourage you to buy your own copies so that you can mark particularly significant passages, write questions and comments in the margins, and engage in a "dialogue" with each book. Enjoy!

1. Read the article "How to Mark a Book" by Mortimer Adler.
2. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. When English teachers analyze novels, oftentimes students are in disbelief and they ask the age-old question, "How are we supposed to know that?" This book "*A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*" will help you realize that we aren't making this stuff up. Understanding literature no longer needs to be a mystery, and *HTRLLAP* will help you learn to recognize literary conventions and see symbols, archetypes, and patterns.
3. As you read this book, take notes on the key ideas in each chapter. You will come across references to titles and authors that you might be unfamiliar with, but you don't have to KNOW them to understand what Foster says ABOUT them. Make connections from the main ideas/concepts of *HTRLLAP* to any other book you read this summer. We will refer to this text throughout the year.
4. Buy a copy of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. Read it. Read it again. Take notes. Connect it to Foster's text. Be prepared to discuss it in detail when you return in the fall.
5. Complete the Major Works Data Sheet on *The Awakening*.
6. In September, be prepared to take a test on *HTRLLAP* and to write an essay on *The Awakening*.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns and would like to get in touch with us over the summer, you can reach Mrs. Schaefer at tschaef131@aol.com and Ms. Nolan at fyreisle@yahoo.com