

# AP English Summer Reading Project 2009

Welcome! We're pleased that you decided to take AP English. It is a course designed to foster independence and critical thinking. We encourage you to read frequently and widely and reflect on your reading. This summer we are asking each of you to read variety of genres. All of you will read *How to Read Literature like a Professor* and two short stories: "The Ledge" and "The Destructors." You will also enjoy reading a novel you will choose from the attached list. This list has been derived from previous AP English tests, from National Council of Teachers of English recommendations, from recommendations of honors instructors, and from our personal experience. It is somewhat eclectic and covers fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Obviously, we expect you to choose a book you have not read previously (remember that English teachers talk). If you would like to read a different independent book, please email either Ms. Andershock or Ms. Paul for approval using the school email addresses. Please allow at least a few days for a response, however, as we do not always get to our email everyday in the summer. Also, please email us if you have any questions about the assignments.

These assignments are due the **first day of class**.

## *How to Read Literature like a Professor* Assignments

This book is yours to keep, ergo, annotate it with your questions, comments, etc. You will only be required to read a select few chapters this summer, but we will return to this book through the year for more chapter reading. We think you will find that even though this is a "how to" book, it doesn't read like one.

### Pre-Reading Activities

1. Look through the Table of Contents. You should be familiar with this already due to the activity you did in May with your junior English teacher.
2. Look at the end of the book beginning with the Appendix on page 283. You will see that the author has given you a list of the works he mentions within the text. He also gives you a brief comment as to what each piece is about.
3. There is an Index. Don't be afraid to consult it.

### Reading Activities

**\*Warning: this book will make reference to many works of literature you have never read. DO NOT be discouraged. We only ask that you have an understanding of the ideas presented – not a complete knowledge of the canonical literature of the English language. If you are so inclined to read some of the works mentioned, good for you. So, look for the big ideas here.**

1. Please read the following:
  - Introduction, “How’d He Do That?” pgs. xi-xviii.
  - Chapter 1, “Every Trip Is a Quest” pgs. 1-6
  - Chapter 3, “Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires” pgs. 15-21
  - Chapter 10, “It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow” pgs. 74-81 and
  - Chapter 12, “Is That a Symbol?” pgs. 97-107
2. Annotate the above chapters. You may even write in the margins any books, stories, movies, plays, etc. you have experienced that would fit in with the ideas presented.

### Post-Reading Activity

Go back and reread Chapter 1. Then write (type) a **1 page double-spaced** synopsis of any book you have read in the past that can be analyzed in terms of the “Quest.” Explain the story briefly, and then apply what you learned from Chapter 1 to that book. For example, if you were to use *Catcher in the Rye*, you would discuss how Holden’s quest sends him on the trail to find his own sanity (the Holy Grail). Use details, quotes, etc. if possible from the book to prove your points.

## Short Stories and Assignments

### Reading Activity

Read each of the short stories. Of course, you will want to annotate them. Apply one or more of the ideas from the *Professor* book to each short story. Write (type) a **1 page analysis for each story** about how it can be read since you read the *Professor* book. Use quotes and details from the stories to support your response.

## Independent Novel Assignments

### Pre-Reading Activities

1. Find out about the author. Very often an author's experiences color or shape what he/she writes about later. Print out any information you find about your author and annotate it. You will turn this in with all the other materials on the first day of class.
2. What enticed you to choose the novel you did? Jot down some thoughts in bullet point form or a T chart of positives and negatives. Was it the book cover, the brief synopsis of the book, someone's recommendation, the length? Make this casual and brief – we're just trying to see what trips your trigger when it comes to literature.

### Reading Activities

1. As you read the novel, create a **double-entry quote log**. On the left-hand side, list quotes (and their page numbers) from the novel that you found interesting, meaningful, or revealing about the characters, plot, and theme. On the right-hand side of the page, opposite each quote, explain in your own words what the quote means to you or reveals to you. You may make connections to yourself and to other things you have read. You might discuss themes you see developing, or just interesting characters or plotlines. This section should be at least **3 pages in length**. Your quote log should reflect all parts of the novel.
2. When you come to school in August, we will discuss how you would apply the *Professor* book to your chosen novel, so be thinking about how you will discuss that with the class. You don't need to write anything down, just be ready to "walk" us through it.

### Post Reading Activities

Reflect on your understanding of the book. What meaning did you draw from the book? How might the book relate to your life or to today's world? Use examples and quotes from the book to answer these questions. (1 page)

**\*\*\*Please label all sections of your work and keep assignments separate.\*\*\***

## Independent Novel Reading List

You may choose any of these titles to read; or you may choose another book written by any of these authors. You may not choose a book or author who is not on this list unless you have cleared it with me.

*The Alchemist*--Coehlo  
*Angela's Ashes*--McCourt  
*Bel Canto*--Patchett  
*Beloved*--Morrison  
*Black Boy*--Wright  
*Brave New World* – Huxley  
*Catch-22*--Heller  
*The Chosen*--Potok  
*The Color Purple*--Walker  
*Crime and Punishment*--Dostoevsky  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* – Haddon  
*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* – Tyler  
*Gilead*--Robinson  
*Girl with a Pearl Earring*--Chevalier  
*Going After Cacciato*--O'Brien  
*The Grapes of Wrath*--Steinbeck  
*Gulliver's Travels*--Swift  
*The Handmaid's Tale*--Atwood  
*Horse Whisperer*--Evans  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*--Angelou  
*The Inheritance of Loss*--Desai  
*Invisible Man*--Ellison  
*Jane Eyre*--Bronte  
*The Jungle*--Sinclair  
*Kite Runner* – Hosseini  
*Life of Pi*--Martel  
*Light in August*--Faulkner  
*Lolita*--Nobokov  
*March* – Brooks  
*The March*--Doctorow  
*Madame Bovary*--Flaubert  
*Mrs. Dalloway*--Woolf  
*1984*--Orwell  
*On the Road*--Kerouac  
*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* – Solzhenitsyn  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* – Marquez  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* – Kesey  
*A Passage to India*--Forster  
*The Plague*--Camus  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany*--Irving  
*Pride and Prejudice*--Austen  
*Prodigal Summer* --Kingsolver  
*Pygmalion*--Shaw  
*The Road*---Cormac McCarthy  
*A Room of One's Own*--Woolf  
*Schindler's List*--Keneally  
*Siddhartha*--Hesse  
*Slaughterhouse Five*--Vonnegut  
*The Stranger*--Camus  
*Farewell to Arms*--Hemingway  
*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*--Hardy  
*Things Fall Apart*--Achebe  
*A Thousand Acres*--Smiley  
*Wuthering Heights*--Bronte