

DEAR CLASS OF 2010,

Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition! I hope your summer will be relaxing and rewarding in every way, mentally preparing you for the excitement of your senior year. My request as you complete these assignments is that you **READ** closely and **THINK** deeply. Seek depth of understanding not mere completion of the assignments.

READER'S JOURNAL - YOUR HANDY, DANDY NOTEBOOK

Although I want you to read for pleasure, your preparation for discussion of and writing about the novels and plays will be easier if you keep a **reader's journal** of important **characters, themes, and quotations**. Don't rely on online book notes to provide these details; **truly original writing** comes from your own deductions about the work at hand.

THEMES AND DETAILS - THE HEART OF THE MATTER

As you read this summer, I ask you to read closely for **universal themes**—themes which are common to mankind. Also, be aware that these exceptional writers, to achieve their purposes, have included **details - characterization, setting, diction, symbols, imagery, memorable quotations** - that have meaning beyond the who? what? when? where? why? and how? questions that you have previously answered about literature. Students who excel in AP English Literature and Composition are able to draw from these details to support their critical analyses of literature.

ONLINE FORUM - A MEETING OF MINDS

To facilitate understanding, you are invited to join a **private online forum for summertime discussions** about your outside reading. Furthermore, you and I will revisit this google group site throughout the school year while studying other works. At times your online entries will be a part of your grade. At the site I'll post thought provoking questions about your reading selections, and you are encouraged to share your ideas about these books and plays.

Please ask your own questions, pose theories, and answer other students' questions on this site. As a fellow reader and learner, I'm looking forward to the ideas that you'll generate. I'll be noting your responses and insights into each author's purpose and themes, and I'll add my own two (or three) cents worth of knowledge. I'm looking for a free exchange of ideas between intelligent minds! I hope that we may have some meaningful class discussions prior to our first meeting in August.

Please return the personal information form with your email address. With this address, I will invite you to join our google group.

I look forward to our AP adventure into literature! If you have questions this summer, you may contact me at home 382-4434, on my cell 626-1887, or you may ask me to be your friend on Facebook. (I'll say yes...)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Janelle Phipps

ASSIGNMENT #1

Read Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, an entertaining and practical book which unlocks the secrets in literary texts, secrets which you have always suspected were hiding there, secrets waiting to taunt you when you take the summer reading tests! I suggest that you read this book **FIRST!**

ASSIGNMENT #2

Read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. This disquieting novel describes the alarming exploits of a band of young boys and explores the variance between civilized and savage behavior.

ASSIGNMENT #3

Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. This multi-dimensional literary classic explores the dangers and ethical dilemmas involved in experimenting with life.

MIGHT I SUGGEST?

To further expand your choices on the AP exam in April, consider reading one or more of these AP notable books:

Ceremony Leslie Marmon Silko
Anna Karenina Leo Tolstoy
The Metamorphosis Franz Kafka

Sula Toni Morrison
Ethan Frome Edith Wharton
All the Pretty Horses Cormac McCarthy

Invisible Man Ralph Ellison
All the King's Men Robert Penn Warren
The Bonesetter's Daughter Amy Tan