

AP English Literature and Composition

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Welcome to AP English Literature! This course is designed to include literature from around the world and to prepare you to take the Advanced Placement Literature test. I love teaching this class and look forward to our time together. I have selected the summer reading to help prepare for next year by broadening your background and giving a little practice in reading thoughtfully. These books may already be on a shelf in your home or are easily available, can possibly be purchased from one of my former students or at any new or used bookstore.

First of all, read the book all seniors in all classes will be reading: Every Falling Star by Sungju Lee. I read this very recently and found it fascinating. This is nonfiction, but I think you will find it fairly literary with relatable characters, symbolism, strong thematic ideas, and engaging conflicts.

Please get a copy of How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster. Since you are reading the schoolwide book, save this one for last. We will use this book in our first unit when we start back and will reference various chapters off and on all year. If you have leftover time and want to read, go ahead and go for it this summer. You will find it much more entertaining and readable than the title might initially indicate.

Please also read The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. This is a real favorite of mine, and I can't wait to see what you think! Kingsolver's book is fairly long, I warn you, but it is not hard to read and she's a Kentucky author! The story infuriates me every single time I read it, but it also makes me laugh, cheer, and sometimes cry. You will see later that it connects to nearly every chapter in the Foster book. Watch for point of view, characterization, symbolism, setting, organization, irony...all that good literary stuff.

When school starts you will be evaluated on summer reading through a group project and an essay. We will discuss the novel together and begin learning to ask some AP-type questions about what we are reading. Be assured that I re-read every single text with you as you read for the first time. I am very excited about what the next school year holds for us.