

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
MRS. BARNETT AND MRS. VACCARELLO
SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2021-2022**

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The summer assignment is as follows. If the **completed** assignments are turned in on **August 10**, students will receive bonus points. All assignments must be turned in by **August 24** in order to receive a grade.

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and complete the activity guide for it. Make sure you follow the directions.
2. Read the novel, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and complete the notecard assignment for the novel.
3. Select and analyze a piece of short fiction or poem from provided list and write an extended response (multi-paragraph)

Regardless of due dates, you will be tested and writing an AP-style on demand essay concerning this novel within the first week of school. (The note cards will help you to understand style and literary devices).

These assignments are to be done entirely on your own. We are seeking to assess your ability and preparedness for the course. This summer assignment will be instrumental in establishing imperative course materials and instructional strategies. By completing this assignment to the best of your will help us to teach you to the best of our ability. Any plagiarism will result in a zero for all parties involved.

Now is the time to decide if you are up to the task of this challenging course. Please understand that if you choose not to complete these assignments you will place yourself at a great disadvantage in being successful in this class.

**Part 1:
How to Read Literature Like a Professor
By Thomas C. Foster**

During the course of the year, we will continually refer to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. It is imperative for you, as a well-read AP student, to understand how to apply certain motifs and trains of thought that run throughout literature. After reading this guide, you will be able to begin to understand the concept of analyzing literature, not just for the fundamentals like figurative language, diction, and syntax, but for the meat behind the words. Don't fret: this book is relatively humorous and shouldn't cause you too much pain during your summer vacation. You are expected to read the entire book. As you read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, recreate the chart in a word document. You will need to complete the chart for all chapters (chapters 1-26) of the book **EXCEPT CHAPTER 27: A TEST CASE**. Your responses must be typed in a **12pt Times New Roman font**. *Please note: The chapter and page numbers differ slightly between the original and revised editions of the text. Make sure you working with the correct chapters by focusing on the chapter titles.*

Chapter Number and Title	Write a definition (your own words) and summary of the chapter.	Write a few sentences applying the concept of the chapter to a text (literature or media) **You can only use the same text 3 times.**

Part 2:
The Handmaid's Tale
By Margaret Atwood
Notecard Assignment

Notes for Review

Note Card Requirement—You are required to create note cards for every completed novel or drama this year, including the novel for the summer assignment. **Use 5” x 8” index cards.** Any cards that require outside research must have a proper bibliographic citation (MLA format). The requirements for the information to be included on each card is as follows:

I. Title/Author, etc.

Genre, literary period, date of publication

Authorial Information

Birth and death, education, nationality, major awards, other information germane to writer's works and achievements. You will need to go to the library or the internet to find this information. As always, any time you use a source, it must be cited in correct MLA bibliographic form. If there is information in your book, you may use that information and cite the source.

II. Opening/Closing Lines of chapters and/or the novel/drama

Look closely at the opening lines of each chapter/act (especially chapter one and the last chapter of the novel and /or the opening and closing lines of the work itself). Explain how they relate or connect. Explain their significance to the novel as a whole.

III. Setting

Time(s) and place(s)—where the action of the novel takes place—not when and where it was written. Include three quotations illustrating the setting. Remember to include full quotation, page number, and a comment about the significance for **every quotation on all your note cards.** Remember that a quotation is any line from the book—not necessarily a character's words.

IV. Characters

A complete list of all major and minor characters from the most important to least important. Include a brief description of each and a significant quotation with comment for three major characters.

V. Theme

Theme is *the truth about the human condition revealed through the characters and plot of the novel.* A statement of theme must be a complete sentence; “War is absurd and immoral,” is an acceptable statement of theme. “War” alone is a brief statement of subject, not theme.

VI. Plot

A complete summary of plot should fill at least one side of a large card and will probably go on to the back.

VII. Literary Devices

This section will vary greatly from writer to writer. Look for the writer's use of imagery and figurative language—symbol, metaphor, satire, irony, etc. Cite at least **three different literary devices** and illustrate each with a quotation and discussion of significance.

VIII. Critical Commentary

Citing critical review will also require a trip to the library or a visit to the internet. Inappropriate citing includes “book cover blurbs” such as a “fascinating novel... a real blockbuster.” Appropriate citing includes thoughtful and insightful critical analysis made by professional critics and reviewers. Book reviews for contemporary novels can be located on the web and the online literature databases available through the school district website. Cite sources in correct MLA bibliographical form.

IX. Style Notebook

Each writer's style is unique. Find three quotations that illustrate the writer's style; consider diction and syntax especially, also use of figurative language, multiple narrators, stream of consciousness, point of view, and any other element uniquely used by the writer. Remember to comment on the significance of each quote.

X. Quotations/ Connections

Select at least three quotations that crystallize this work of literature by illustrating a significant event in the plot, a revelation of character, theme, etc., a line or two you might want to remember in an essay on the AP exam. **Also, explain how this work is connected to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.** For example, analyze a scene from the novel that relates to Chapter 2: Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion.

There should be a total of ten cards for *The Handmaid's Tale*. The cards will receive a number grade with specific points deducted for missing or incomplete information.

Part 3:
Story Fiction/Poem Analysis

Short Fiction/Poem Analysis

In addition to reading *The Handmaid's Tale*, you will find select a short fiction or poem from the below list. All texts can be found online. These companion pieces have been selected because they relate to the novel through a shared thematic focus (Dystopian or Feminist perspective).

After reading the novel and one of the below texts, you will write an extended response (2-3 paragraphs) in which you compare the themes and stylistic choices of the texts.

Short Fiction

- "2 B R 0 2 B" by Kurt Vonnegut
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21279/21279-h/21279-h.htm>
- "Happy Endings" by Margaret Atwood
<http://www.napavalley.edu/people/LYanover/Documents/English%20123/English%20123%20Margaret%20Atwood%27s%20HappyEndings.pdf>
- "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut
<http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/harrison.html>
- "In the Company of Wolves" by Angela Carter
<http://www.napavalley.edu/people/LYanover/Documents/English%20123/English%20123%20Angela%20Carter%27s%20The%20Company%20of%20Wolves%20-%20Story.pdf>

Poem

- "The Unknown Citizen" by W.H. Auden
- "anyone lived in a pretty how town" by e.e. cummings
- "Bored" by Margaret Atwood
- "Flying Inside Your Body" by Margaret Atwood
- "Morning in the Burned House" by Margaret Atwood
- "Eurydice" by Margaret Atwood

Here is your checklist for the AP Literature Summer Assignment

DUE DATE: August 10th (extra credit-must have ALL components complete to turn in) or August 24st (full credit)

- ✓ Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster
- ✓ Complete chart (Chapters 1-26) for *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
- ✓ Read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- ✓ Complete Notecard Assignment on *The Handmaid's Tale*
- ✓ Select and read one text from the Short Fiction or Poem list
- ✓ Write an extended response (2-3 paragraphs) in which you compare the themes and stylistic choices of the texts (*The Handmaid's Tale* and a short fiction/poem from the provided list)