



Karns High School AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading – 2019

This summer, as an AP Literature and Composition student, you will read two books to help prepare for the rigors of the course. The first, Thomas C. Foster's nonfiction *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, will serve as a companion resource to the rich and challenging works that you will encounter over the next year. You will then **choose one** of two works of world literature which will enhance your worldview as well as your literary exposure. Read these books closely, fill out the data sheet for Book 2 (see padlet), and be prepared for assignments related to your reading during the first weeks of the semester. Students are responsible for obtaining their own copies of these works either from a bookstore or a local library.

Book 1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor (Revised Edition)* – Thomas C. Foster

Description (from Harper Collins): a lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable.

While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor.

What does it mean when a literary hero is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower?

Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

*Your first major project in AP Lit will be based on this text.

Book 2: **CHOOSE ONE** of the following to read, and fill out the data sheet (data sheets may be found on the course Padlet). *Helpful hint: Sparknotes, cliffs notes, etc., may be good for aiding in your understanding of the text, but they are no substitute for actual reading.

1. ***Crime and Punishment*** – Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Description (from Simon & Schuster): Dostoyevsky's penetrating study of a man for whom the distinction between right and wrong disappears, and a riveting portrait of guilt and retribution.

2. ***The Kite Runner*** – Khaled Hosseini **

Description (from Riverhead Books): The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

** Excellent story; language and violent situations may be objectionable

While reading both texts, remember to annotate and do close reads of difficult passages. If you will be taking AP Lit in the spring, I highly encourage you not to wait until winter break to do this assignment, as this is a large undertaking and you will need more than two weeks to fully engage with the texts. Also, be sure to visit our class resource padlet (link and QR code below) for extra information that will be useful for your reading. If you have any questions about the assignment or the material, feel free email me at rachel.monday@knoxschools.org . Please allow a minimum of 24 hours to respond.

https://padlet.com/rachel_monday/r25dozjxi9g

