



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2021: AP Literature and Composition

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man."

-Francis Bacon

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

Required Texts *It is important that you purchase the editions indicated by the ISBNs.*

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining
Guide to Reading Between the Lines* Thomas C. Foster ISBN-10 : 9780062301673

The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne ISBN-10 : 1511853697

In A. Conan Doyle's novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. John Watson both observe the villain Jack Stapleton carefully, yet their differing interpretations of the same details reveal the difference between a "good reader" and a "bad reader." Watson can only describe what he sees; Holmes has the knowledge to interpret what he sees, to draw conclusions (inferences), and to solve the mystery. Understanding literature need no longer be a mystery. Thomas Foster's book will help transform you from a naïve, sometimes confused Watson to an insightful, literary Holmes. Professors and other informed readers see symbols, archetypes, and patterns because those things are there – if you have learned to look for them. As Foster says, you learn to recognize the literary conventions the "same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice" (xiv)

Assignment #1:

Read and annotate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Annotations will be checked on day two of class. You will also need to write a bulleted list of key ideas (2-3) from each chapter. This will be turned in on the first day of class.

Example

Chapter 1: Every trip is a Quest (Except when it's not)

Main Ideas:

- There is usually a quester, a place to go and a stated reason to go there
- The quester usually encounters numerous challenges and trials that help him/her on the journey
- The ultimate reason for the quest is to gain self-knowledge and understanding

Assignment #2:

Focus on five chapters or concepts that you found particularly interesting in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. You will then need to apply those concepts to *The Scarlet Letter* by:

- Citing the chapter from Foster's book you are using.
- Copying, verbatim, the complete quote to which you will be applying Foster's book and cite the page number from which the quote comes. If you are citing a particularly long or general moment from the book, summarize the moment in your own words and give the page number(s) on which this moment occurs.
- Detailing how the chosen chapter from Foster's book helps you analyze this particular quote / moment.
- Explaining how this analysis of this quote / moment leads to a larger, more thematic analysis of the novel as a whole.

Assignment #3:

Be prepared for a test on *The Scarlet Letter* on the second day of class. This test will consist of multiple-choice questions, quote identifications and significance, and a short essay question.

All written work should be typed, double-spaced, 12-font, and should be in a three-pronged folder (not a binder).

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies;
read and mark the texts themselves.***