

Foothill High School  
**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**  
Summer Reading Assignment

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**AP Lit & Comp Teachers**

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We are looking forward to working with you in AP Literature & Composition in the fall. As you know, AP Literature & Composition involves complex texts and detailed analyses requiring students to work at the college level. Our expectation is that you are ready for this level of challenge and understand that a strong work ethic is required.

As you prepare for this class, please remember that the single most effective way to improve your writing is by reading. Research indicates that reading skills can improve simply by increasing the amount and level of your reading. Since success in AP Literature & Composition depends heavily on reading and writing—just as your English classes will in college—please plan to make reading a vital part of your summer. The most effective approach is to read as many books of literary merit as possible.

All summer reading titles are available from public libraries, from the Foothill High School library, from Barnes & Noble, or from any online bookseller, such as amazon.com.

**Your summer reading for this course includes the following:**

- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley.

**AND**

- Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* as follows--Part One: *The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes*, (Sections I-IV); Part Two: *Stories of Love and Adventure*, (Sections I-IV); and Part Three: *The Great Heroes before the Trojan War*, (Sections I-IV). Hamilton's *Mythology* provides a necessary foundation for any serious study of literature.

**AND**

- A selection of passages from both the Old Testament and the New Testament, which will provide a textual basis for recognizing and understanding Biblical allusions that pervade Western literature. (The works of Shakespeare contain more than 1,000 Biblical references alone.) While students may read any translation they choose, required selections include:

The Creation	Daniel in the Lion's Den
Adam and Eve	Elijah
Cain and Abel	Jezebel
David and Goliath	Sodom and Gomorrah
Moses (birth -- Promised Land)	Birth of Jesus
Abraham and Isaac	Parable of the Prodigal Son
Tower of Babel	Lazarus
Jonah and the Whale	John the Baptist
Samson and Delilah	The Last Supper
Solomon	Judas
Job	Crucifixion and Resurrection
Joseph/ Coat of Many Colors	Doubting Tomas
Armageddon	Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

**Please be prepared for a test on Hamilton's *Mythology* and Biblical allusions on the second day of class, and an in-class analytical essay on *Brave New World* during the first week of school.**

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“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.”  
— Ernest Hemingway

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut.”  
— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*