

# AP English Literature & Composition Summer Assignment 2022



AP English Literature and Composition uses literature to deeply examine topics such as ***family, death, justice, technology, religion,*** and ***work*** (just to name a few). John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* is considered a "Great American Novel" because it features all these topics and many more. Your job this summer will be to read *The Grapes of Wrath* closely and consider it as our "anchor text" to begin the school year together. Contained within the novel is precise characterization, complex plot

development, biblical allusion, implementation of symbol and archetype, and powerful arguments regarding the human condition – all of which are the underpinnings of effective literature.

Also, you must read ***select chapters*** in Thomas Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

This course requires you to complete ***"literary analysis."*** This is a playbook on how to accomplish such work. You must read the following chapters:

1. Every Trip is a Quest;
2. Acts of Communion;
5. When in Doubt, It's From Shakespeare
6. ...Or the Bible



9. It's More than Just Rain or Snow
11. Concerning Violence
12. Is That A Symbol?
19. Geography Matters...
20. ...So Does Season
21. Marked For Greatness

These books are available to pick up at the THS bookroom before the end of the school year OR June 9th only. The THS bookroom will not have copies available before or after the dates provided.

Read these books carefully this summer. If you bought your own copy, define words and interact with the text in the margins as you read. If you did not purchase your book, either keep notes in a journal (be sure to write down page numbers) or invest in some post-its, which are great for marking specific sections of a text and noting important ideas or incidents. I highly encourage you to read with a dictionary or dictionary app by your side. *Grapes of Wrath* is rich with complex vocabulary and allusions. You will struggle to grasp all the nuances of this text if you do not define words and research allusions as you read.

Now, for the summer assignments.

1. After you have read *Grapes of Wrath*, select **one** of the following prompts and write a 3 – 5 page response in MLA format.

- What is the novel’s attitude toward the American Dream? Has it been threatened by the dehumanization of the migrants or reconstructed through Casy and Tom’s efforts?

OR

- Choose ONE character from the novel on which to complete a thorough character study. Consider the following about the character: their role in Joad journey, their core motivation, important statements [quotations] that signal their character, important actions that signal their character, symbols associated with their characters, and any other information that helps **prove a claim about the character in the novel.**

2. After you have read both *Grapes of Wrath* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, choose 2 **or** 3 chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and write 3 -5 pages explaining **how** *Grapes of Wrath* **serves as an example** of those chapters in Foster’s book.

(Example – In Foster’s book, Chapter 19 argues that the physical space [state, region, country] where the action occurs in a novel always plays a central part in its development. A student could write about how geography plays a central role in the development of *Grapes of Wrath*. A student could cite specific points that Foster argues and explain how those points are **proven** within *Grapes of Wrath*.)

These essays will be due on August 10th (the first day of school) and will not be accepted late. You must come with a hardcopy of this essay. I will not allow you to print it at the beginning of class, nor is it acceptable to email me a copy. In addition to submitting this assignment, you will be assessed on the novel within the first couple days of school. Careful reading of *Grapes of Wrath* will increase your chance of doing well on this assessment.

If you have any questions over summer or need clarification on the summer assignment, please don’t hesitate to contact me. You can email me at [jjeffries@turlock.k12.ca.us](mailto:jjeffries@turlock.k12.ca.us) or sign up for the AP English Remind by texting @ **gow2023 to 81010**.

Enjoy your summer!

Mr. Jeffries