

*“Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be digested. That is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.” –Sir Francis Bacon*

The primary purpose of the AP English class is to give students a college-level reading and writing course which prepares them not only to take the AP exam in May, and hopefully score a 3 or higher in order to earn college credit, but more importantly to encounter sophisticated texts with confidence, independence, and creativity. My sincerest hope as your teacher is that you will learn to find both meaning and pleasure in reading and writing about literature.

You will receive a detailed description of the course in the syllabus. However, for now all I want you to do is focus on this pre-course assignment, which is designed to assist you in developing a strong schema (or framework) to help process and fully appreciate the poetry and stories you will be reading. It is also meant to help me assess your work ethic, reading comprehension, and writing ability.

Assignments: (These are **due the first day of class**; assignments turned in *late will have 50% deducted.*)

I. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

You may purchase your own copy of this book, which would allow you to mark it up and keep it as a valuable resource, or you may access the assigned chapters on the NHS website. If you do not have Internet/computer access, please see me before the summer break for a paper copy. Although I recommend reading the entire book, I have selected the following pertinent chapters for the beginning of your summer work. After reading each chapter, write a brief response (think of it like journaling) **on the attached reader response sheet** or type your answers on a separate piece of paper if you prefer. Your response should be a comment on the chapter, the techniques and strategies presented, and/or any questions about things you didn't understand. This is your chance to start practicing how to read critically and respond critically to literature, so please avoid useless comments like, "I liked it" or "It was really boring." Comments like these do nothing in terms of learning.

- Introduction: How'd He Do That pg. xi – xvii
- Chapter 1: Every Trip Is A Quest pg. 1-6
- Chapter 3: Nice to Eat You Acts of Vampires pg. 15-21
- Chapter 7: Or the Bible pg. 47-56
- Chapter 12: Is that a Symbol? Pg. 97-107
- Chapter 25: Don't Read With Your Eyes pg. 226-234

II. After reading about allusions in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, complete the attached allusions research assignment. We will be adding to this list of allusions throughout the year.

III. Lastly, select a piece of literature that you have not read from the AP Most Frequently Cited list (on the back) to read, and write a 1-2 page paper in which you use the ideas presented in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to analyze some aspect the work. In other words, you should identify, explain, and elaborate on at least one element in the story such as a symbol, allusion, archetype, theme, quest, etc. After you have read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will have a better grasp and understanding of how to do this. Please use MLA format for your paper (see [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) for MLA guidelines).

—AP Lit Most Frequently Cited—

- 24 Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
- 19 Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- 16 Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevski
- 15 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- 15 Moby Dick by Herman Melville
- 14 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- 12 Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- 12 The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 12 Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
- 12 The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 11 The Awakening by Kate Chopin
- 11 Billy Budd by Herman Melville
- 11 Light in August by William Faulkner
- 11 Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zorah Neale Hurston
- 10 As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
- 10 Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
- 9 Beloved by Toni Morrison
- 9 Native Son by Richard Wright
- 9 Othello by William Shakespeare
- 9 Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
- 8 Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
- 8 Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
- 8 The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- 8 Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
- 8 The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
- 8 A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
- 7 All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren
- 7 Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton
- 7 Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
- 7 The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
- 7 Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
- 7 Sula by Toni Morrison
- 6 Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
- 6 Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen
- 6 Medea by Euripides
- 6 Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe
- 6 Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
- 6 Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot
- 6 Obasan by Joy Kogawa
- 6 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- 6 The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
- 6 The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
- 5 Bleak House by Charles Dickens
- 5 The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chkhov
- 5 Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe
- 5 Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
- 5 The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
- 5 Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser
- 5 Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
- 5 Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor
- A Prayer for Owen Meany*-John Irving
- East of Eden*-John Steinbeck
- The Poisonwood Bible*-Barbara Kingsolver



## Reading Response Sheet

**Instructions:** After reading each chapter, write a brief response (think of it like journaling). Your response should be a comment on the chapter, the techniques and strategies presented, and/or any questions about things you didn't understand. This is your chance to start practicing how to read critically and respond critically to literature, so please avoid useless comments like, "I liked it" or "It was really boring." If you need more space for writing, you may attach another sheet of paper or type your answers on a separate piece of paper.

**Book Title:** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

**Introduction:** How'd He Do That pg. xi - xvii

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**Chapter 1:** Every Trip Is A Quest pg. 1-6

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**Chapter 3:** Nice to Eat You Acts of Vampires pg. 15-21

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**Chapter 7: Or the Bible pg. 47-56**

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**Chapter 12: Is that a Symbol? Pg. 97-107**

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**Chapter 25: Don't Read With Your Eyes pg. 226-234**

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# ALLUSIONS WORKSHEET

This is a “research” assignment of literary, Biblical and mythological allusions. On a separate sheet of paper please identify the source of the following allusions, what each means in the context of the original piece, and what each means now. These allusions often appear in both the essay and multiple choice part of the test. Knowing where they came from and what they mean will help your understanding and analysis of the literature. You need to have this sheet completed by the first day of class. We will then be adding to the list as the year progresses, so you should have an extensive list of allusions by the time you take the exam next May.

EXAMPLE: **ALLUSION:** She went on a Quixotic adventure.

**ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE ALLUSION:** *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes

**WHAT IT MEANS IN THE ORIGINAL CONTEXT:** Alonso Quixano was a man whose imagination was captured by the Knights of the Round Table. He changed his name to Don Quixote and traveled the countryside rescuing people and getting into all sorts of trouble.

**WHAT IT MEANS NOW:** To go on an “impossible” quest – to be a bit of a dreamer with no real hope of being successful.

1. **ALLUSION:** He was “betrayed by a kiss.”
2. **ALLUSION:** As the cave’s roof collapsed, he was swallowed up in the dust like Jonah.
3. **ALLUSION:** The play *J. B.* by Archibald MacLeish is the story of a modern day Job.
4. **ALLUSION:** In the play *Raisin in the Sun*, George Murchison calls Walter Lee Younger “Prometheus.”
5. **ALLUSION:** Don’t go “tilting at windmills.”
6. **ALLUSION:** “I wash my hands of this!”
7. **ALLUSION:** Sometimes life seems like a Sisyphean endeavor.
8. **ALLUSION:** He had the wisdom of Solomon.
9. **ALLUSION:** It was a Herculean task.
10. **ALLUSION:** It felt like one of the nine levels of hell.