



Leander ISD
AP Literature and Composition Novel List and Summer Assignment 2017

Welcome readers and writers to AP Literature and Composition! We look forward to working with you during the next school year. As part of this course, students will read How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster **and** one novel of choice during the summer. Students will be expected to take notes while reading.

The Pre-AP, AP, or IB English summer reading assignment is an established convention at most schools offering these courses, and the rationale for it seems simple enough: Reading over the summer helps keep the students' minds "in the game," and it adds to the number of major literary works the students will have read by the time they take their AP exams. Also, students in a given class arrive to school in August having had a common literary experience, providing them and their teacher immediate instructional opportunities.

STEPS TO SUCCESS:

STEP 1

Read and take notes on *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This book provides a broad overview of literature – a world where a road leads to a quest, a share meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower – and helps make the reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

As you read, you are **expected** to take detailed notes. Annotations should reflect your learning style. Examples of acceptable formats include (A) using tape flags or sticky notes, (B) writing in the margins of your personal copy of the book, or (C) keeping a reflective journal. You will use this book and your annotations to help analyze your summer novel as well as most works we read during the school year.

STEP 2

Select one of the following novels to read this summer.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE*****

Some of the titles below deal with mature and/or controversial subject matter. Parents and students will want to preview their potential book choice prior to reading and discuss if the book is the "right fit" for the student. One quick way to preview the subject matter is to read reviews from online sites like Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or Goodreads.com.

- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (880 Lexile, Historical Fiction) Marie-Louise is a sightless girl who lived with her father in Paris before the occupation. When German forces necessitate abandonment of the city, Marie-Louise's father, taking with him the museum's greatest treasure, removes himself and his daughter and eventually arrives at his uncle's house in the coastal city of Saint-Malo. Young German soldier Werner is sent to Saint-Malo to track Resistance activity there, and eventually, and inevitably, Marie-Louise's and Werner's paths cross. It is through their individual and intertwined tales that Doerr masterfully and knowledgeably re-creates the deprived civilian conditions of war-torn France and the strictly controlled lives of the military occupiers.
- Beloved by Toni Morrison (870 Lexile, Historical Fiction) Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

(book selections continued on the next page)



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- [Bless Me, Ultima](#) by Rudolfo Anaya (840 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the pagan past - a mythic legacy as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America. And at each life turn there is Ultima, who delivered Tony into the world...and will nurture the birth of his soul.
- [One Hundred Years of Solitude](#) by Gabriel García Márquez (1410 Lexile, Magical Realism) *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women—brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul—this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.
- [Oryx and Crake](#) by Margaret Atwood (922 Lexile, Science-Fiction) Snowman, known as Jimmy before mankind was overwhelmed by a plague, is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx whom they both loved. In search of answers, Snowman embarks on a journey through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride.
- [The Age of Innocence](#) by Edith Wharton (1170 Lexile, Historical Fiction) Set in the high society circles of late nineteenth century New York, Wharton beautifully contrasts the intensity of true passion against the complacency of a loveless but proper marriage; delicately questioning the expected behavior of the upper social class. Through Wharton's exquisite, detailed portrayal of the affluent class, she invites the reader to experience the charmed life of the "Gilded Age"... a life that would change dramatically by the end of World War I.
- [The Underground Railroad](#) by Colson Whitehead (890 Lexile, Historical Fiction) Like the protagonist of *Gulliver's Travels*, Cora, a runaway slave, encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey on the famed Underground Railroad—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

*book summaries adapted from Amazon.com

Where might I find these books?

If possible, students should purchase their own copies of these novels. It is an advantage to be able to take notes in the margins and underline or highlight notable passages. You may buy these books cheaply online and find copies at our local bookstores.

You may also check out your chosen works from the public library or check out digital copies of your books from the new LISD OverDrive Digital Library (see information below). However, you would not be able to take notes in the text itself.

If these options are not viable, we do have a limited number of some titles available at school, but these may not be annotated or marked in any way. These books will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested may contact one of the teachers listed below before leaving school for the summer.



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Introducing OverDrive Digital Library

In September, Leander ISD Libraries expanded their services to include audiobooks and eBooks, which are available for students and teachers to download and enjoy for up to two weeks. Using this new service, LISD library card holders can check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting <http://digitallibrary.leanderisd.org>.

Users may browse the library's website, check out with a valid library card, and download to PC, Mac®, and many mobile devices. To use the service, students will need to install free software — OverDrive® Media Console™ will be required for audiobooks and Adobe® Digital Editions will be required for eBooks. Titles can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including iPod®, Sony® Reader™, and many others. Some audio titles can also be burned to CD to listen on-the-go. Titles will automatically expire at the end of the two-week lending period and there are no late fees or loss of materials.

This new service, powered by OverDrive, is free for students and teachers. Patrons can login by using their district username and password credentials.

To get started downloading audiobooks, eBooks, and more, visit <http://digitallibrary.leanderisd.org>. For additional OverDrive tips and FAQ's, visit <http://dl.leanderisd.libguides.com/OverdriveHelpTips>.

STEP 3

While reading the summer novel, students are **expected** to annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins) the text. If you borrow a book, you can use sticky notes for your annotations.

Annotation requirements:

- Personal reactions/questions/predictions while reading (this should be thorough, with no chapter left out)
- Connections to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (at least one per chapter, exempting the one or two page chapters)
 - Note which chapter you are connected to in HtRLLaP
 - Explain how the information from the HtRLLaP chapter adds meaning to the event(s) in your novel
- You must make connections with MOST of the HtRLLaP chapters through the course of your reading

Annotation helpful hints (not required):

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make
- sections that are confusing for you
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to your personal life
- symbols, themes, topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc...) used effectively



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Trust in your own ability to discern and understand what is going on in the text. You will have far more original ideas than Cliff's Notes, SparkNotes, or any of the other "study guides."

STEP 4

Students are **expected** to bring the Foster book, their summer novel, and all notes on the first day of class.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the teachers below. Have a good summer!

Cedar Park High School: Michelle Iskra – michelle.iskra@leanderisd.org
Leander High School: Kasandra Diomande – Kasandra.diomande@leanderisd.org
Rouse High School: Amanda Thompson – amanda.thompson@leanderisd.org
Vandegrift High School: Laura Cooley – laura.cooley@leanderisd.org
Vista Ridge High School: Hillary Reyes – hillary.reyes@leanderisd.org

Leander ISD Contact: Jennifer Abramson- jennifer.abramson@leanderisd.org

Are you stuck? Don't know what to do?

Visit the Summer Reading online forum for help, to ask questions, etc.... Teachers will be logging in regularly to help answer your questions. Visit the online forum at <http://goo.gl/i3pji>.

Additional Resources:

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Harvard Writing Center

<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k33202&pageid=icb.page143936>

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/>