



Leander ISD
IB English IV Summer Assignment 2017

Welcome readers and writers to IB English IV! Below you will find your summer reading requirement and the assignments that accompany the novel. As part of this course, students will read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster **and** *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. We encourage you to purchase your own books. If you have your own copies, you will be able to make notes and highlight as you read and then be prepared for discussion. Moreover, should you study these books again in college, your own annotated and highlighted copies will be invaluable. However, if you are unable to purchase these books, see Mrs. Conner (room 2212) before the end of school.

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

All students will read the following non-fiction selection over the summer.

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas C. Foster (820 Lexile, non-fiction) While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

Read this first because you will need the information from this book to complete step three.



STEP 2

All students will read and annotate (**look at step three**) the following fiction selection over the summer.

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (630 Lexile, Realistic Fiction) A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. The stories in *The Things They Carried* opens eyes to the nature of war in a way readers will never forget. Tim O'Brien's modern classic that reset our understanding of fiction, nonfiction, and the way they can work together, as well as our understanding of the Vietnam war and its consequences.

*book summaries adapted from Amazon.com



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STEP 3 (This will be a grade, due on the first day of class)

While reading *The Things They Carried* during the summer, students **need 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 connecting to in *HtRLLaP*
 - Explain how the information from the *HtRLLaP* chapter adds meaning to the event(s) in *TTTC*.
 - You must make connections with **MOST** of the *HtRLLaP* chapters through the course of *The Things They Carried*

Just underlining/high-lighting with no corresponding notes will not get you credit on this assignment.

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

Because we will be using this novel as the basis for much of the work completed during the first six weeks of school, students are **expected** to bring their annotated *The Things They Carried* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* on the **first day of class**.

Students can **expect** an assignment or multiple assignments over their summer reading during the first week(s) of class. Be prepared for an exam within the first two weeks of school. The test will require you to answer objective questions and write an essay in response to a given prompt.

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

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Leander ISD contact:

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