

Summer Reading Assignment: AP Literature and Composition

Contact: Mrs. Potter, apotter@edenca.org | Showbie Class Code: 79KVE

Goal: Through the Summer Reading Assignment, AP students will actively be involved in reading and writing to prepare for the rigor of the AP class. If a student does not complete the summer reading assignment, s/he will not be permitted to continue into AP Literature and Composition in the fall.

Reading and Writing Requirements:

1. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. This text is an excellent introduction to the type of critical reading that is essential to the AP Literature course. Take notes and **annotate** this book. Your annotations will be more like annotating a textbook (summary notes, connections, questions). You may underline/highlight as you annotate but it will be your handwritten notes that are graded. You will be given a test over the content in the first weeks of school. **Bring this book to class on the first day of school.**

2. *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. This is perhaps one of the most beautifully written books of the past decade. For this novel, you will be using **Showbie** to respond to the prompts as well as annotating the novel. See below (see pg. 2) for tips on annotating a novel. All annotations must **demonstrate meaningful dialogue** with the text. Underlining and highlighting, while important, do not demonstrate this type of interaction. It will be your handwritten notes that show meaningful engagement with the text. **Bring this book to class on the first day of school.**

Responses should be at least 200 words. All responses should include **at least one quotation** from the book that provides a specific example of/support to your argument. Cite page numbers for all quotations. All posts are due by midnight on July 17, 2020. **Please join the Showbie class as soon as possible.**

1. Open Showbie, login into your student account and click on the +:
2. Enter the class code, **79KVE**, then tap *Join*:
3. Once you've joined the class, you will be able to see your summer reading assignments.
4. Please submit your posts as a comment or upload as a Google Doc.

Grading rubric for all posts:

Critical Thinking (10 points)	Responses demonstrate thoughtful, careful engagement with the prompt or post, discussing important ideas, characters, etc., and fully answering all parts of the question(s).
Examples (6 points)	Responses use specific examples/quotations from the book along with cited page numbers.
Writing Standards (4 points)	The writing is clear, concise, and easy to understand. Rules of grammar and mechanics are followed. Minimum length requirement is met.
Timeliness	Posts are submitted before midnight the due date. (-10% for each day late)

ANNOTATION GUIDE

additional resources available on Showbie

Annotating a literary text (or any text, for that matter) is a valuable skill for students to learn. Annotating can be defined as the process of taking notes directly on the literary text that you are reading. First, you need to know why annotating a text is useful and then how to annotate a text.

Why Annotating Is Useful

Taking notes inside a text while reading is particularly useful because it forces your brain to transact with the text while reading. Really, your brain does this all the time anyway whenever you read, but annotating provides you with the opportunity to become cognitive of your brain's work because you are writing down thoughts as they occur to you. Also, it allows you to keep track of significant plot events, characters, conflicts, literary techniques, and themes so that you can return to them more easily at a later time. In fact, studies show that after a six-week time lapse, students with an annotated text can recall all of the key information in that text after a 15- to 30-minute review session. Finally, as the old adage goes, writing it down is learning it twice. The physical act of transcribing your thoughts while reading cements the information into your memory; once this is done, you can access it later.

How to Annotate

Annotating is a skill, and like most skills, it requires practice to develop. Because most of you are probably novices when it comes to taking notes inside the text, here are a few general guidelines to follow. Once you get comfortable with this skill, you may decide to craft your own parameters for annotation. The goal here is to give you a framework at the start. Only you know how you learn best, though, so feel free to adjust or add to this list as needed.

1. **Mark key lines:** Any time you read a passage that is significant to the plot or character development, underline it and write a brief notes to yourself in the margin describing the passage and/or why it is important.
2. **Ask questions:** If a passage or scene is confusing, or if you want to know more about what is occurring, bracket the passage or scene and jot your question in the margin. Then you can bring the question to class discussion for clarification.
3. **React to what you read:** If something in the text strikes you, surprises you, troubles you, or even makes you laugh, mark it and write your reaction in the margin. Often these passages are intentionally written by the author to elicit such a response, so they can prove important later.
4. **Track themes:** As you read, you will begin to discern the text's threads or themes. Once you notice them, you can begin marking them every time they occur. This is especially valuable when it comes time to write an essay on the book. Themes are often developed through the characters, point of view, symbols, setting, etc.
5. **Notes at the end of each chapter:** If the book is broken up into chapters, you should take a few minutes at the end of each one to list its 4-5 most important plot events. Do it right there in the book, right at the physical end of the chapter itself. That way, when you remember a key plot event but do not remember where in the text it occurs, or when you cannot recall which event occurs before which, you have a resource for easy reference instead of having to thumb through the entire book, mining it for one little piece of plot.

At the beginning, you may find this process a bit laborious, but with some practice, it will become second nature to you. Ultimately, if you stick with it and concentrate on being an active note-taker while reading, you will find that you comprehend texts more fully and are better prepared to discuss and write about what you have read.