

AP Lit and Comp Summer Reading

The following books are required summer reading for AP Lit and Comp:

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

The Poisonwood Bible is the epic story of a family's quest, led by evangelical Baptist minister Nathan Price, to leave its mark on the Belgian Congo in 1959. Fraught with political intrigue as the native Congolese struggle to maintain their independence from European rule and Western influence, the family mirrors the setting as the four Price daughters attempt to carve their own identity from their oppressive father.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster

This book explains the tools that writers use to communicate meaning. Witty, with many specific examples, Foster shows his readers how to fully understand overt as well as implicit meaning in literature.

AP Lit Poetry Terms - handout

There are some copies of *The Poisonwood Bible* available through the CHS library, and I have some copies of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* available in my room. In addition, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the *AP Lit Poetry Terms* handout. If you can manage it, try to purchase at least some of the books so you can annotate them. Please refer to the following website for tips on annotating effectively:

http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/lamont_handouts/interrogatingtexts.html.

The focus of AP Lit is analysis. Regardless of the discipline, analysis always means an examination of how a part relates to a whole. In science, you might examine how the circulatory system contributes to the function of the body; in social studies, you might examine how the legislative branch contributes to the function of government. In literature, you may look at how figurative language, diction, imagery, or setting contribute to the story's point. So... as you read, *The Poisonwood Bible*, consider literary devices such as these and make note of how they help us learn about characters and theme.

What to expect in the fall:

I will collect your notes on the first day of class. **Have any questions over the readings ready for me.** We will spend some time in a Q&A session and that is your opportunity to clarify anything you're uncertain about. You will be given a written assessment on the first *full length* class. You will be quizzed over the poetry terms within the first week of classes.

If you have any questions over the summer, you can e-mail me at lrodrigue@augustaschools.org.

Please note: Completing the summer assignment within the given deadline indicates that you are serious about accepting the challenges of an AP class. Should you fail to complete the work within the deadlines, I will look forward to seeing you in my College Prep English IV class.

AP Lit and Comp.

Like most English courses, AP Lit & Comp. focuses on reading and writing. It differs, however, in the types of literature under study and the quality of writing required. Literary selections for this course are both extensive and demanding, often requiring more than a single, or superficial, read. Writing is analytical, focusing on your interpretation and evaluation of the reading.

Expected reading list:

The Poisonwood Bible	The Kite Runner	How to Read Lit...
Oedipus	Beowulf	The Canterbury Tales
Hamlet	Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead	Heart of Darkness
Mrs. Dalloway	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	1984
The Turn of the Screw	Rime of the Ancient Mariner	Selected poems

We will examine poetry as it relates to the literature under study, as well as a genre in itself. In addition, students are expected to read independently from the AP reading list. A critical analysis of this literature is due each quarter. All books must first be approved by the teacher.

Most of the exams are in essay form, using the prompts found on the AP Lit and Comp. exam. Assessment will take many forms, although students are generally expected to express their understanding of literature through writing. Students can also expect to take AP-style multiple choice quizzes and to give presentations.