

## AP Lit and Comp Summer Reading

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

*Empire Falls* by Richard Russo  
*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster  
*AP Lit Poetry Terms* - <http://literary-devices.com/>

I have *Empire Falls* and a few copies of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* available in the library and Guidance, however, many students like to purchase their own copies so they can annotate them. In addition, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with poetry terms from the website indicated above.

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 *Empire Falls*, consider its literary devices and make note of how they help us learn about overall meaning.

To help you with analysis in general, you *should* read *all* of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. To help you understand *Empire Falls* in particular, you are **required** to read the following chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (I'm including the names of each chapter because you and I may not be working from the same edition of the book and the chapter numbers might be different):

- Ch. 1 – Every Trip is a Quest
- Ch. 12 – Is That a Symbol?
- Ch. 19 – Geography Matters
- Ch. 24 - ...And Rarely Just Illness
- Ch. 25 – Don't Read With Your Eyes
- Ch. 26 – Is He Serious? And Other Ironies

Assignment:

1. Read the **required** chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* first.
2. From *Empire Falls*, take notes on anything related to the assigned chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, as well as anything else you suspect might be important to understanding the story's point.
3. Record your questions. This is important! Questions are a sign of a healthy intellect – I encourage them!
4. Learn/Review the poetry terms. Don't waste time on ones you already know. Make a list of the ones you've never heard of.

**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. Your notes will be returned to you for use during the written assessment. 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](mailto: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:

Empire Falls	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.