

AP English Literature -- Summer Assignments

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Greetings, O Gifted Seniors!

Congratulations on your decision to challenge yourself by undertaking the quest for knowledge in all things literary! Like the great Greek hero Odysseus, you will encounter strange new worlds and perhaps a few oddities, but the journey will be worthwhile. Like Odysseus, too, you will encounter obstacles, not the least of which is the merciless and wily *Senioritis* and his counterparts, *Whining* and *Complaining*. They have lured many a crusader before you to the rocks of ruin, but there is hope: wear the helmet of good humor; heft the shield of determination; and ply the sword of effort, and you will overcome these powerful foes! Blessings on your voyage!

NOTE: ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

1. College Essay

Assignment: Choose one of the topics from the Common Application OR a specific topic from the application of one of the colleges/universities to which you are actually applying (if they do not use the Common App). Write an essay in response to the selected prompt. **Note: DO NOT USE SHORT ESSAY RESPONSES (LESS THAN 200 WORDS) FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT -- if you are participating in “Camp College” this summer, you may use one of the essays for this assignment that you complete for Mrs. Perryman.**

Length: approximately 500 words (unless instructions suggest otherwise) – again, no short essay responses

Style Criteria: Adherence to the rules of Standard English grammar; catchy introduction and use of transitions between paragraphs/thoughts; strong/memorable conclusion; appropriate tone for the topic and the audience; keep in mind that factual information has already been included on an application – this is the place to showcase your personality (within reason) and your non-quantifiable achievements.

Format: Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Type the essay prompt, the min/max word count required, and your essay’s word count at the top of your essay.

2. Questionnaire

Complete the questions on the attached pages for Mrs. Perryman. The answers you provide will be used by the teachers writing your letters of recommendation for college and scholarship opportunities; therefore, it would behoove you to answer thoughtfully and fully, providing as much detail and/or explanation as possible. You may either type or write your responses.

3. Summer Reading

The following works are necessary to build a solid foundation in understanding both devices of literature and the major allusions present in British literature. I will assume that you have read the assignments thoroughly and class discussions will depend on you having done so. You will also be tested on the readings at the beginning of the school year. Note-taking is not a requirement, nor is annotating your copies of these works; however, the most successful readers understand the benefit of both.

A) ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster** – There are two editions of this book available (both are fine for our purposes). While the information in each is the same, the page numbers are slightly different. To avoid confusion, I’ve listed your reading assignment for this work below by chapter title since these are the same in both editions:

- “Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?”
- “When in Doubt, It’s from Shakespeare . . .”
- “. . . Or the Bible”
- “Hansel and Gretel”
- “It’s Greek to Me”
- Interlude – “Does He Mean That?”

- **“Is That a Symbol?”**
- **“Geography Matters . . .”**
- **“ . . . So Does Season”**
- **Interlude – “One Story”**
- **“Don’t Read with Your Eyes”**
- **“Is He Serious? And Other Ironies”**

We will continue to refer to various sections of this book throughout the year as we read our class novels and plays.

B) ***Mythology* by Edith Hamilton** – Read the Introduction in its entirety; all of Part One (“The Gods, the Creation, and the Earliest Heroes”); Part Two, chapter 8 only (“Four Great Adventures”); and all of Part Six (“The Less Important Myths”). Again, while note-taking is not required, I strongly suggest that you take notes while reading as the various names/stories can become confusing. Though these are the only segments you will need to cover over the summer, keep this book handy as additional reading assignments will be given once school begins.

Senior Questionnaire – Page 1

Name: _____

The following questions, along with your resume, will be used by teachers as they write letters of recommendations for you. Complete each question thoroughly with as much detail as possible.

What activity, event, or community service activity listed on your resume has impacted you the most?
What have you learned from the opportunity?

What do you want to study in college? What strengths do you have that will help you achieve your goal? What skills do you need to continue to improve to help you achieve your goal?

Senior Questionnaire – Page 2

Name: _____

The following questions, along with your resume, will be used by teachers as they write letters of recommendations for you. Complete each question thoroughly with as much detail as possible.

How have you changed through high school and how has this prepared you for college? What has caused this change?

What is something unique about you that will help you succeed in college?