



AP Literature & Composition: Ms. Seifert
Summer Reading Assignment 2026 - 2027
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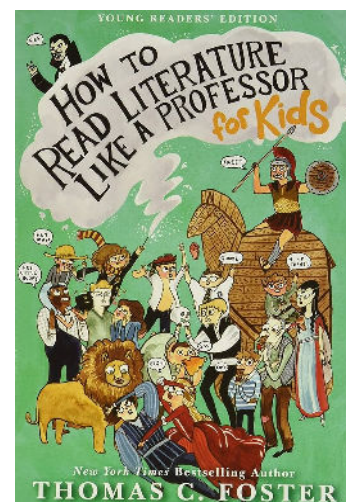
Dear student,

I am excited about getting to know you (most of you for the second time) and working with you next school year! In preparation for our time together, I have designed this summer assignment to prepare you for the rigor of AP Literature and Composition.

Your summer assignment consists of the following parts:

Part 1:

Read the book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: For Kids*. Yes, I understand that some folks might scoff at the juvenile nature of this book that's designed for both middle and high school readers (when AP Literature is a college-level course.) However, this text isn't meant to be challenging to read - it's meant to share essential ideas that we'll apply to challenging literature all year. It's a fun book to introduce you to the different ways readers can interpret literature. I suggest that you read this book BEFORE you complete part 2.



Part 2:

Read one of the challenging pieces of literature listed below and annotate it as you read. Why annotate? [Read this document](#) for my rationale and suggestions for annotating. Of course, you do not have to annotate according to the link provided. Many students have already developed their own method of annotating texts, and that's completely fine. However, here's one tip: I suggest that you annotate a few ideas (not all of them) that you read about in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: For Kids*.

****NOTE: This is a college-level course; therefore, some books contain mature language and/or situations.** Good literature challenges us. It not only challenges our reading abilities, but it also challenges our sense of empathy, our understanding of the world, and sometimes even our willingness to stretch our thinking beyond familiar perspectives. Literature invites us to more fully understand human experience, to think beyond what we already know and are comfortable with. If you come across language or ideas in this (or any) book that makes you feel uncomfortable, please do not immediately dismiss the book as threatening -- instead, approach the situation as an opportunity to grow towards adulthood and broaden your understanding of what it means to be one of the nearly 8 billion people sharing this planet. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Title of Book (number of times this book was referenced on the AP Literature Exam for FRQ #3)	Author (Date Published) Genre/Notes
<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> (3)	Jesmyn Ward (2017)) A magical-realist novel set in rural Mississippi, following 13-year-old Jojo as he navigates family trauma, poverty, and systemic racism
<i>Catch-22</i> (15)	Joseph Heller (1961) Dark humor; satirical war novel that explores the absurdity and bureaucracy of war, highlighting the struggles and moral dilemmas faced by the characters
<i>Jane Eyre</i> (23)	Charlotte Bronte (1847) Victorian Romantic coming-of-age novel addressing class and gender roles
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (15)	Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850) Historical fiction based in Puritan New England addressing shame, guilt, repentance, and gender issues
<i>The Road</i> (10)	Cormac McCarthy (2006) Post-apocalyptic novel that details the grueling journey of a father and his young son; this book explores the best and worst that humanity has to offer
<i>Invisible Man</i> (33)	Ralph Ellison (1952) African American literature; addresses many of the social and intellectual issues faced by African Americans in the early 20th century
<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> (3)	Julia Alvarez (1994) Historical fiction; relating a fictionalized account of the Mirabal sisters during the time of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic

Part 3:

Complete an [AP Literature Major Work Overview](#) for your chosen book. This will be helpful to reference before taking the AP Literature test in May 2026. Simply make a copy of the given link. Be sure to complete each aspect of the overview completely and without assistance from AI or Sparknotes. [Here is an example](#) of what your Major Work Overview should look like. **This is due the first Friday of the school year: 8/14/26.**

Part 4:

In the second week of school, you will write a response to a Free Response Question (FRQ) using your chosen novel. Having a solid grasp on the plot, characters, symbols, and themes of your novels is imperative.

Part 5:

In the second week of school, you will engage in in-class activities applying the ideas from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: For Kids* to several short stories.

Please reach out with any questions! Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Ms. Molly Seifert

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